

CAE TEST THREE

PAPER 1 READING 1 hour 15 minutes

Part 1

You are going to read three extracts which are all concerned in some way with memories. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

EXTRACT FROM A REVIEW

Last night Channel 8 brought us the first episode of the much-publicized series on space exploration *Dark Voyages*. In it there were glimpses of defining moments in extraterrestrial travel including the launch of the Sputnik satellite and the 1969 moon landings, as well as the background to each event. Cleverly, the programme makers have chosen to simplify the technological details of these missions and instead draw the audience in by keeping the excitement and mystery of the subject in focus, mainly through the striking use of original film footage.

Where the programme is less successful is in its interviews with those who have travelled in space and to the moon. Given the potential for bringing to life memories of highly unique and potentially fascinating experiences, the program makers opt to include fragments of interviews interrupted by generally redundant narration that prevents the viewer from gaining a real sense of the memories that are being recalled. So, although several of the interviewees briefly reflect on the overwhelming emptiness of space and the surreal beauty of the Earth below, we are denied a chance to hear what they may have said in a more meditative fashion.

- 1 In the television programme *Dark Voyages* there is an emphasis on
 - A presenting new images.
 - B appealing to the viewers' emotions.
 - C contrasting two particular events.
 - D introducing certain aspects of technology.

- 2 What does the writer find particularly disappointing about the documentary?
 - A the way the interviews are edited
 - B the choice of interviewees
 - C the lack of purpose in the interviews
 - D the subject matter the interviewees discuss

GOING BACK IN TIME

As part of a nationwide survey shoppers in Stoke-on-Trent were recently asked to exchange memories from 40 or more years ago, the aim being to piece together a picture of what constitutes the perfect first few years of life. The older shoppers were in no doubt about one thing: material possessions do not make children happy. Many had low-cost recollections of long bike rides and making up games out in the street. In fact, it wasn't until around the start of the 1980s that people's memories started to be about things,

such as particular brand-name dolls like Barbie or the popular Scalextric racing cars, popular with boys and girls alike.

I admit that nostalgia often colours our view of the past, but things do seem to be tougher for today's young generation. In my day, despite the cold houses, tough schooling and sometimes severe illnesses, what made it all bearable was the sense of everyone living through it together, whereas now, so many of the things that children

do are isolating. There has been a retreat from the outdoors into individual rooms and if children have a computer up there the irony is that they're not safer at all. What they see on their screens

is a world that was unknown to those elderly shoppers in their childhood. And most of these pensioners would be grateful that it was.

3 The writer refers to 'Barbie' and 'Scalextric' in order to emphasize

- A the division of toys according to gender.
- B the effect of consumerism on play time.
- C the lack of creativity in modern children.
- D the idea that children need constant stimulation.

4 What is the writer doing in the second paragraph?

- A explaining why it is difficult to be a child in the modern world
- B suggesting why it is that people tend to forget bad experiences
- C illustrating the change in society's attitude to parental responsibility
- D showing how the general standard of living has improved for children

EXTRACT FROM A SCIENCE MAGAZINE

It's seven years since AJ first wrote to neuro-psychologist James McGaugh, asking for help. She was locked in a cycle of remembering that she described as 'a running movie that never stops'. Her constant recall was a 'burden' of which she was both warden and victim. Intrigued, McGaugh set about investigating her memory. In initial tests he found that she could identify the day of the week for any date since 1980. Convinced her condition was new to science, he dubbed it 'hyperthymestic syndrome' – from the Greek 'thymesis' for remembering. Whereas normally the human mind weeds out irrelevant or out-of-date material and discards it, clearly AJ's memory does not work in quite the same way.

Crucially, though, while AJ's memory is impressive, it is not indiscriminate and could not be described as photographic. McGaugh's team discovered this several hours into a testing session by asking AJ to close her eyes and describe what the researchers were wearing. She had no idea. Similarly, she could not recall which dates the team had quizzed her about a month earlier. 'Her autobiographical memory, while incredible, is still selective and even ordinary in some respects,' McGaugh says. This was evident in AJ's poor performance on tests in which she was asked to memorize word lists or recognize faces. Not only that, AJ had been an average student, unable to apply her prodigious memory to her studies.

5 What does the writer suggest about AJ's memory?

- A It made AJ forget things which might have been useful.
- B It could be advantageous to AJ in some ways.
- C She had once been able to control it through certain strategies.
- D It retained the kind of non-essential information most people forget.

6 What point is exemplified by the reference to the researchers' clothes?

- A AJ's visual recall is the weakest area of her memory.
- B AJ's long-term memories are stronger than recent ones.
- C AJ's memory does not retain everything that she sees.
- D AJ's concentration is frequently disturbed by her constant recall.