

READING

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Would you like to learn to rock climb? Or spend time working at an animal sanctuary? That's what Andrea Black Jenny Smith are doing as a part of their Duke of Edinburgh award programme.

The award encourages young people to do exciting, cultural, social and adventure activities in their free time. The Queen's husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, started the award in 1956, he started it because he wanted young people to learn to help themselves and other people.

- The award is for people aged 14-25, and there are three levels: Bronze for those aged 14 or over, Silver for over 15s, and Gold for over 16s. You have to complete four activities to achieve the award:
- Go on an expedition (e.g. hiking, kayaking or climbing)
- Learn a new practical or social skill (anything from painting to podcasting!)
- Take on a physical challenge (learn or improve at a sport)
- Do voluntary work, helping people or the environment (e.g. work with disabled or elderly people, or raise money for a charity)

Young people usually do the award at a Duke of Edinburgh club at their school or at a local youth group. They decide what they are going to do, and write a plan. It usually takes between one and three years to finish an award.

COMPREHENSION

I. What is the Duke of Edinburgh award? Choose the correct answer.

- a) An award for the most active young person in the UK.
- b) A programme of challenging activities for young people.
- c) An opportunity for young people to learn new skills and make some money.

II. Read the text again and choose the correct answer.

1) Who started the award?

- a) The Queen
- b) The Duke of Edinburgh's wife
- c) The Queen's husband

2) Why did he start the award?

- a) because he wanted to encourage young people to do challenging activities.
- b) Because he wanted young people to make some money.
- c) Because he wanted to distract young people.

3) How many levels of award are there?

- a) four
- b) two
- c) three

4) How old do you have to be to get a Gold award?

- a) over 16s
- b) over 13s
- c) over 15s

5) How many activities do participants have to complete?

- a) four
- b) six
- c) five

6) Who plans which activities do participants do?

- a) The Queen
- b) The participants themselves
- c) The Duke of Edimburgh

III. Complete the phrases from the text with verbs given.

- 1) _____ voluntary work
- 2) _____ an expedition.
- 3) _____ a plan.

- 4) _____ time.
- 5) _____ an activity.
- 6) _____ a new skill.

IV. Complete the text with the words given.

The Duke of Edinburgh award started in 1956. In order to complete the award, young people have to spend _____ doing exciting but challenging activities, they do _____ (e.g. helping disabled people), learn _____ (e.g. designing websites) and go on _____. They all have to write _____ before they do the _____. And when they finish, they get a bronze, silver or gold award.