TEST 5 PAPER 1: READING Part 1 (questions 1-8)

Part 1

You are going to read an interview with a successful novelist. For questions **1-8** choose the answer (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Darren Bell is a well-known household name and has had three best-sellers. I met him to find out what his secret was. He writes in such a natural, easy-going style I wasn't surprised when he told me he had been writing stories from a very young age. 'I've always enjoyed writing; I used to write short stories when I was at school and really enjoyed the opportunity to be creative and let my imagination run wild.' When I asked how his family and friends reacted to his creative writing he explained that it was largely thanks to their positive feedback that he had pursued a career as a writer. He said his teachers and parents always encouraged him to write and to enter competitions; he won his first writing competition at school when he was just 7 years old. 'My story was printed in the local newspaper, it was really exciting and my Mum still has a copy of the paper somewhere.'

'Did you ever feel very different from your school friends?' I asked him. 'Not at all,' he said. 'We did all the normal things like watch football together, go out on our bikes and so on. The only difference was that I would be more likely to have a notebook in my bag and might sometimes write ideas
line 13 down, but my friends were used to that, it didn't feel strange and no-one ever said anything about it.'

I asked how his passion for writing developed as he got older and how he found his particular fictional style. He explained that when he went to university he got involved in writing for the university newspaper. He told me he wrote all sorts of different articles but at the end of the day after trying all sorts of different writing types he decided he preferred writing fiction rather than serious articles about news events. 'As it is now, it was always the sense of getting completely lost in my own world that attracted me. I like being creative and I feel more comfortable expressing my own ideas and images rather than writing about things that are real.' He explained this further by saying that when you write about true facts you have to justify everything and get things right but when he was writing his own stories he felt like he could write about anything he liked. 'That's not to say you don't have to do a lot of research,' he pointed out. He told me he had spent hours in libraries and museums looking up all sorts of things from chemical equations to dinosaurs and that the best source of information was talking to experts and people who had really experienced the sorts of things he wanted the characters in his books to experience. He says it's important to make the events and characters seem believable otherwise people won't connect with the story. 'I always make an effort to research my subject matter properly as there will always be someone out there who really does know about whatever I'm talking about and I don't want anybody to read my books and think I'm talking nonsense.'

I asked him where he got his inspiration from for his unusual storylines and he openly admitted that it was very boring everyday events. 'When I write I start by thinking of a real situation and real people and then imagine what they might do if something unexpected or unusual happened. I like to write about how different people react and how this affects their relationships with one another.' He added that one thing that he always tried to ensure was that his stories had a clear and satisfying ending. 'I don't like to leave any loose ends,' he said. 'I myself find it frustrating if at the end of a book something is not explained, so I try and avoid this frustration for my readers.' He also says he tries to give his novels happy endings. 'That's not to say sad things don't happen in my novels because they do and any story where everyone is happy and only good things happen would be very unrealistic, but I don't want readers to finish my novels feeling depressed, so I like to finish on a positive note.'

And finally what is his key to success? According to Darren the most important thing is to have a great team of friends and family behind you to help you and support you. 'I am lucky to have a very supportive and understanding family and numerous friends, who have been fantastic and helped by reading endless drafts of my work and giving very honest comments on it. I couldn't have done any of it without them.'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 5 PAPER 1: READING Part 1 (questions 1-8)

1 Why was the interviewer not surprised that Darren had been writing since a young age?

A Because he writes like a trained professional.
B Because he has a very relaxed way of writing.
C Because he is well-known for the stories he wrote as a child.
D Because his stories are very creative.

2 How did he feel when he won his first writing competition?

A embarrassed
B different from his friends
C excited
D he was too young to feel anything

3 When he says 'my friends were used to that' in line 13, what does 'that' refer to?

A watching football and going for bike rides together
B Darren winning competitions
C carrying notebooks in their bags
D Darren writing things down in his notebook

4 Why does he say he prefers writing creative fiction to writing about real news events?

A He has never written about real life events.
B He finds real life events boring.
C He likes to make things up.
D Writing fiction means he doesn't have to do research.

5 Why does he think it is important that the people and events in his books are believable?

A Because if they are not readers will not understand the story.
B Because if they are not readers will not get involved in the story.
C Because people want to read about everyday people and events.
D Because people prefer to read about things they know something about.

6 What does he always make sure his stories have?

A a definite finish
B a good beginning
C real life characters
D interesting events

7 Why does he say he includes unhappy events in his stories?

A Because he likes to make people feel depressed.
B Because writing only about happy things can be frustrating.
C Because he knows more about sad events.
D Because he wants his stories to be like real life.

8 How does he say his friends have helped him?

A by telling him what they really think of his work
B by always telling him how good his books are
C by buying all his books
D by understanding he has a lot of work

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 5 PAPER 1: READING Part 2 (questions 9-15)

Part 2

You are going to read an article in which a young man who lives in London explains why cycling is by the far the best way to get around in a big city. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A-H** the one which fits each gap (**9-15**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Why I cycle in the city

I cycle because it is cheaper, quicker, more reliable, it is better for the environment and it is better for me; both mentally and physically. Public transport is so expensive and so unreliable these days I try to use it as little as possible. On the underground and trains there are always delays, planned and unplanned closures and you can wait half an hour for a bus to then sit in a traffic jam. [9] Public transport can be so uncomfortable too; it gets so crowded in the rush hour with hundreds of people all crammed into a tiny space. This makes it a stressful and unpleasant beginning or end to everyone's day. No one looks at anyone else, even though you are only centimetres away from each other and all social graces go out the window. I much prefer to be on my bike. I know how long it will take me to get where I am going and I am outside in the fresh air. [10] The one thing I used to like about travelling by train was reading the free paper or a good book but sometimes it is so busy you don't have enough space to do that. It is true that at less busy times of the day public transport isn't such a bad way to get around, except that at times of the day when fewer people want to use trains and buses there are, logically, fewer of them. In my experience an off-peak journey might be cheaper and pleasanter in the sense that you can sit down, read a book and generally not have your personal space invaded, but your journey will take longer as you'll have to wait longer for connections.

The other alternative would be to travel by car but again there are all sorts of reasons why the bike is a hundred times better. [11] Firstly, travelling by car is extremely expensive, something which in the future will only get worse as fuel prices continue to rise and parking restrictions increase. And while you don't have to deal with impatient and stressed passengers pushing you off trains or buses you have to suffer impatient and stressed drivers next to you and behind you in heavy traffic. [12] If there are hold ups because of traffic problems or an accident, we cyclists can just keep on going while cars have to sit and wait; how often do you hear someone apologising for being late because they were 'stuck in traffic'? Often. A further disadvantage is the difficulty of parking; there is never a free parking space at the end of the day in the street so unless you want to drive around for hours looking for a space the only option is to have a garage; an additional cost. In the city centre the few public car parks which exist are unbelievably expensive. I can leave my bike more or less anywhere and don't have to pay a penny. [13] Finally and by no means the least important problem with travelling by car is that it is extremely harmful to the environment. If more people left their cars at home or car-shared we could reduce our carbon emissions significantly.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 5 PAPER 1: READING Part 2 (questions 9-15)

There are of course also some drawbacks to cycling. [14] There is no denying it really is unpleasant cycling in the rain. However, it is also not nice to be on the bus or train or driving a car in the rain. Safety of course is an issue too, although in recent years a lot more cycle lanes have been put in place and I think drivers are more aware of cyclists now than they used to be. Another thing is that when you cycle you have to carry a change of clothes with you which can be inconvenient but I have got used to it and now I actually like arriving at work and changing into clean, dry things. [15] At the end of a long busy day it sometimes just seems too much energy to get on my bike and cycle for forty minutes but once I get going I always feel much better for the physical exercise.

For me there is no contest, cycling is simply the best way to get around. Walking is the only other way I would contemplate getting around in the city, but of course that is really only possible for short distances.

A Cycling at quiet times of the day means you can get where you want to be in even less time.

B Even on a good day my journey by underground, train or bus would take me longer than cycling and my bike takes me all the way to where I want to go.

C The bad weather is probably the worst.

D The only other negative point is that it can be tiring.

E Also cyclists are, on the whole, nice to each other unlike fellow commuters on the train or bus.

F A journey by car to work in the morning can be a very exhausting experience.

G When I get home I can literally just pick it up and bring it inside with me.

H Of course in a car you have your own space and don't have the same pressures as on public transport but there are other problems to deal with.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 5 PAPER 1: READING Part 3 (questions 16-30)

Part 3

You are going to read an article in which five people talk about when they have been in very bad weather conditions. For questions **16-30** choose from the people (**A-E**). The people may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required they may be given in any order.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Which person or people:

followed the advice some other people gave them? 16 ☐

did not follow the advice they were given? 17 ☐

would act differently if they were in the same situation again? 18 ☐

still likes a certain type of weather despite a bad experience in the past? 19 ☐ 20 ☐

lost something they owned in bad weather? 21 ☐

wore extra clothes to protect themselves from bad weather conditions? 22 ☐ 23 ☐

was alone when they experienced the bad weather conditions? 24 ☐ 25 ☐

were not in the place where they usually live when they experienced the bad weather? 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐

does not like a certain type of weather because of their bad experience? 29 ☐

couldn't see where they were because of the bad weather conditions? 30 ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 5 PAPER 1: READING Part 3 (questions 16-30)

Extreme Weather

A

Dave in Oxford

I love it when it rains. I love being indoors and hearing the rain outside and watching it through the window. I even enjoy walking in the rain, but there was one time when I very nearly got swept away by the rain. It was what is called a flash flood. It had been raining hard all day and I was on my way home from work on my bike. There's a river near my house and it had been in danger of flooding for a number of days. Sandbags had been put in place to build up a protective barrier and prevent it from breaking its banks, however, it wasn't enough. The water level reached a point where it simply overflowed and in a matter of seconds the country lane I was cycling along became a small river of fast-running water. I was dragged off my bike by the water and pulled about 10 metres down the road. I managed to grab onto the branch of a tree and get myself out of the water. My bike was not so lucky and it disappeared from sight.

B

Jada in St Lucia

I don't like the wind: it reminds me of when I was in a hurricane on holiday one year. I was only young and on holiday with my parents and it was the middle of summer. We'd been on the beach all day in glorious sunshine when suddenly the sky began to get very dark. Lots of people started leaving the beach and told us we should do the same. No one seemed to be panicking but there was definitely a sense of urgency. When we got back to the hotel they told us it would be better to stay downstairs in the lounge room and that if we had to go to our rooms we should not go anywhere near the balcony and keep all the doors and windows shut. So we stayed in the hotel restaurant and listened to the wind and the rain outside. We couldn't see anything because all the shutters were closed. The most frightening thing was looking outside in the morning after the storm had passed. The hotel garden was devastated; two small trees had been knocked down and many others had branches broken off. It was terrible.

C

Lauren in Sydney

The strangest thing I've ever seen is a dust storm. I woke up and looked outside and everything was red. It was really weird; there was an eerie orange fog, just like something out of a science fiction film about an alien invasion or something. I was quite scared being on my own and turned the TV on to find out what was going on and that's when I found it was a dust storm and not the end of the world. I felt calmer after that. Apparently it was caused by a combination of very dry weather and strong winds. They were recommending people stay inside as there had been reports of people suffering breathing problems but I had to go to work so I just wrapped a scarf around my face and went out in it. It didn't last long and started to clear by the middle of the afternoon but it caused a lot of disruption; they had to cancel lots of flights and ferries.

D

Daniel in Tunisia

The weather I really like is when it's warm and sunny; a perfect summers' day. Sitting in the garden in the sunshine makes me very happy. However, the sun in the Sahara Desert is a whole different matter. I was on holiday with friends in Tunisia and as part of our tour we were taken on a camel ride through the desert. I don't think it was a terribly well organised tour as we ended up in the desert at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, almost the hottest time of the day. We were given plenty of protective clothing and we were only in the desert for about 40 minutes but even then you get quite a good sense of just how hot and barren it can be in the desert. The dunes look endless and there is absolutely nothing in sight except sand and sky and the heat is very intense: there is no escape from it.

E

Ryan in New York

I love the winter, blue skies and really cold temperatures and snow. I love going for walks in the cold weather but one year on holiday in New York I had quite a frightening experience in the snow. My girlfriend and I were on holiday and when it started snowing we thought it was wonderful. We were quite a long way from our hotel and being young and naive we thought it would be fun to walk in the snow. We weren't very well-dressed for the weather and had completely under-estimated how much it was going to snow. Within about ten minutes we could no longer see where we were going and it was impossible to tell where the road was. It was dangerous. It was a proper blizzard and very disorientating. All we could see was white. We got back to the hotel eventually but if I found myself in a situation like that again I think I would be much more sensible: I'd stay in the warm until the snow had passed.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 5 PAPER 3: USE OF ENGLISH Part 1 (questions 1-12)

Part 1

For questions **1-12**, read the text below and decide which answer (**A, B, C** or **D**) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet.**

Example:

0 **A** assistants **B** helpers **C** supporters **D** colleagues

0	A	B	C	D
	■			

The virtual assistant

Personal **(0)** ..... are no more. They have been replaced with a much more **(1)** ..... version called virtual assistants (VAs). VAs do not work in big city offices dressed in **(2)** ..... black suits. Nor do they work exclusively for one **(3)** ..... . The VA works from home and may help to run the lives of up to 30 business people simultaneously. They are self-employed and **(4)** ..... by the hour allowing great flexibility on both sides. VAs have more equality than **(5)** ..... PAs; they have customers rather than bosses.

There are a few disadvantages to the job; you work alone all day and so have no colleagues to chat to over coffee and you can **(6)** ..... the social interaction. But on the plus side no day is ever the same. There is no boring routine or rigid **(7)** ..... and the variety of jobs you might be asked to do means it is never **(8)** ..... .

Clients who employ a VA benefit from being able to outsource. Their VA can do the tasks they don't have time to do; typing, filing, **(9)** ..... flights, uploading a blackberry and even **(10)** ..... to clients. VAs are perfect for the self-employed and small businesses, they don't need annual **(11)** ..... and can be **(12)** ..... for one-off days or weeks.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 5 PAPER 3: USE OF ENGLISH Part 1 (questions 1-12)

1	A	free	B	flexible	C	adjustable	D	rigid
2	A	informal	B	smart	C	neat	D	clean
3	A	chief	B	leader	C	boss	D	director
4	A	charged	B	earned	C	rewarded	D	paid
5	A	traditional	B	old	C	original	D	ancient
6	A	lose	B	lack	C	forget	D	miss
7	A	agenda	B	diary	C	timetable	D	journal
8	A	still	B	slow	C	regular	D	dull
9	A	ordering	B	finding out	C	booking	D	paying
10	A	talking	B	discussing	C	telling	D	explaining
11	A	salaries	B	pay	C	wages	D	money
12	A	used	B	employed	C	borrowed	D	worked

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 5 PAPER 3: USE OF ENGLISH Part 2 (questions 13-24)

Part 2

For questions **13-24**, read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet**.

Example: 0 | I | N | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

A small pet

Miniature dogs that fit **(0)** ..... your handbag have been popular **(13)** ..... a long time but now there's a new must have mini animal; the micro pig. This could **(14)** ..... the new pet for the family **(15)** ..... has everything. According to breeder Jane Croft they make fantastic pets **(16)** ..... they are very low maintenance and don't make much noise. They are easy to toilet train and once you have bonded with **(17)** ..... they are very loving. In fact with training they can be intelligent and well-behaved pets. **(18)** ..... popular belief, they are clean animals and do not smell. They need outdoor space though and regular exercise so are **(19)** ..... ideal for families living in small flats.

Miniature pigs **(20)** ..... first developed for medical research in Europe before being introduced as pets in the USA in the 1980s. Since **(21)** ....., the animals have been used **(22)** ..... scientists throughout the world and are now becoming a fashionable pet in Europe. Scientists have used miniature pigs in all sorts **(23)** ..... studies including organ transplantation. Miniature pigs are better for medical research **(24)** ..... normal breeds of pigs because they don't have the same weight and health problems large pigs do. They will make better pets too for the same reasons.

LIVEWORKSHEETS