

PART 1

You are going to read an extract from an article about rowing. Choose the most suitable heading from the list A–I for each part (1–7) of the extract. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A The challenge of middle-age
- B A record broken
- C A priority: understanding oneself
- D The earliest successes
- E Unexpected success stories

- F Childhood impressions
- G Learning to accept danger
- H Wanted: an almost impossible challenge
- I A decision taken

0

1

Planning what to do for one's birthday becomes increasingly difficult as one gets older, but I know how I will celebrate on October 9th next year. I intend to row the 2,900 miles from Tenerife to Barbados.

1

Many people have tried to row across the Atlantic and quite a few have managed it. It is clear from accounts of survivors that it is an exhausting test of endurance. Soldiers, sailors, housewives, Olympic rowers: the triumphant emerge from surprisingly varied quarters.

2

What is apparent, however, is that the main struggle takes place not in the muscles but in the mind. So, before fussing over such preliminaries as finding a crewmate and sponsorship to the tune of £50,000, I realised that first I had to explore my own mind and try to answer the obvious question of why I wanted to do something that most people would find frightening and painful.

3

When we are young we can afford to dream; as we grow older the gap widens between what we would like to do and what we actually can do. We come to the realisation that we either have to act now or dream on. After the age of forty, people respond to that realisation

in varying ways, and rowing across the Atlantic is one of them.

4

I have sailed, climbed, explored the Amazon and run marathons, but what I am looking for now is an endeavour that scares me and may not be within my capabilities. Such as racing across the Atlantic in a rowing boat.

5

Two Norwegian sailors were the first to row the Atlantic in 1896. They took 60 days and their achievement was unequalled until 1966, when two soldiers, John Ridgway and Chay Blyth, made it in 91 days.

6

It wasn't until the first Atlantic Rowing Race, in 1997, that New Zealanders Rob Hamill and Phil Stubbs shot across to Barbados in an incredible 41 days. This was less than half the time Ridgway and Blyth had taken.

7

As a schoolboy I had read about Blyth and Ridgway and about the innumerable hardships and setbacks they suffered. It was horrifying, and I concluded they were mad. Looking back at the book now, I see they thought so too. When people asked them why they had undertaken such a dangerous journey, they replied that every person had secret ambitions.

PART 2

You are going to read a passage written by a zoologist. For Questions 8–14, choose the correct answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

Most children at the tender age of six or so are full of the most impractical schemes for becoming policemen, firemen or train drivers when they grow up. But when I was that age, I could not be bothered with such mundane ambitions. I knew exactly what I wanted to do, I was going to have my own zoo. At the time, this did not seem to me, and still does not seem, a very unreasonable idea. My friends and relatives, who had long found me strange because I showed little interest in anything that did not have fur or feathers, accepted this as just another manifestation of my strangeness. They felt that, if they ignored my often-repeated remarks about owning my own zoo, I would eventually grow out of it.

i As the years passed, however, to the **bewilderment** of those friends and relatives, my resolve to have my own zoo grew greater and greater, and eventually, after going on a number of expeditions to bring back animals for other zoos, I felt the time was ripe to acquire my own.

From my latest trip to West Africa, I had brought back a considerable collection of animals which were living, temporarily I assured her, in my sister's suburban garden in Bournemouth. But after a number of unsuccessful attempts to convince local councils in various areas to support my plans, I began to investigate the possibility of starting my zoo on the island of Jersey in the English Channel.

I was given an introduction to a man named Hugh Fraser who, I was told, was a broad-minded, kindly soul. He would show me around the island and point out suitable sites. So, I flew to Jersey and was met by Hugh Fraser who drove us to his family home, probably one of the most beautiful old houses on the island. There was a huge walled garden with lots of outbuildings all built in the beautiful local stone which was the colour of autumn leaves glowing in the sunshine. Turning to my wife, I said: 'What a marvellous place for a zoo.'

If my host had promptly fainted on the spot, I could not have blamed him. The thought of creating the average person's idea of a zoo, with all the grey cement and iron bars, in such a lovely spot was horrible. To my astonishment, however, Hugh Fraser did not faint, but merely cocked an enquiring eyebrow at me and asked whether I really meant what I said. Slightly embarrassed, I replied that I had meant it, but added hastily that I realised that it was impossible. Hugh said he did not think it was as impossible as all that.

He went on to explain that the house and grounds were too big for him to keep up as a private individual, and so he wanted to move to a smaller place in England. Would I care to consider renting the property for the purpose of establishing my zoo? I could not imagine more attractive surroundings for my purpose, and by the time lunch was over, the bargain had been sealed.

The alarm displayed by all who knew me when this was announced can be imagined. The only exception to the general chorus of disapproval was my sister. Although she thought it a mad scheme, at least it would rid her back garden of the assorted jungle creatures who were beginning to put a great strain on her relationship with her neighbours.

Questions 6-14

- 8 How did the writer's friends and family react to his childhood ambition?
 - A They took no notice of it.
 - B They encouraged him in it.
 - C They tried to talk him out of it.
 - D They tried to interest him in other things.
- 9 What does the word 'bewilderment' in line 11 tell us about the attitude of friends and relatives to the writer as he grew up?
 - A They were pleasantly surprised by him.
 - B They became increasingly angry with him.
 - C They were shown to be right about his ideas.
 - D They didn't really understand his ambitions.
- 10 Why didn't the writer start a zoo in England?
 - A He had too many animals.
 - B His sister was against it.
 - C Nobody wanted to help him.
 - D He couldn't get permission.
- 11 Why was the writer introduced to Hugh Fraser?
 - A Hugh knew a lot about zoos.
 - B Hugh owned a number of houses.
 - C Hugh knew the island very well.
 - D Hugh had offered land for rent.

12 What was Hugh's initial reaction to the writer's comment about the walled garden?

A He was horrified at the prospect.
B He was surprised by the suggestion.
C He was too embarrassed to reply.
D He was interested in the idea.

13 What did the writer particularly like about the place he chose for his zoo?

A its size
B its price
C its setting
D its facilities

14 How did the writer's sister feel about the establishment of the zoo in Jersey?

A alarmed
B relieved
C supportive
D disappointed

PART 3

You are going to read an article about student accommodation in which four college students talk about the place they live. For Questions 22–35, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Which student says ... ?

My accommodation seems quite expensive.

0 A

I have plenty of storage space.

22

I have reason to regret a decision.

23

My college doesn't provide accommodation.

24

My room is maintained to a high standard.

25

I have washing facilities in my room.

26

I would like to have more independence.

27

I had to buy some extra electrical equipment.

I would like to have more private space.

It's easy to keep in touch with people here.

My room is not very well-furnished.

I'm expected to do my share of the housework.

This is the only place where I can afford to live.

I save money by doing my own cooking.

There are good recreational facilities nearby.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

A Matthew Wren

I live in what's called a hall of residence where I get full board as well as a room. It's not exactly what you call cheap, though. I pay £87 per week for my single room and three meals a day. This also includes the use of a washing machine and ironing board. But I can't complain because my room has just been re-carpeted, the furniture's new and the cleaner comes in daily. The main drawback is sharing the bathroom with nine other students and we don't have any kitchen facilities. The first thing I did when I arrived was buy myself a mini-fridge, so I could have cool drinks whenever I wanted. But, we're on the university network, so I have access to the Internet and free e-mail from my room, and we get room phones so I can ring friends around the campus for nothing.

B Kerry Dunnock

The city where I study is appalling for cheap accommodation, and the college has nothing of its own to offer you, but I was lucky. I found a room in a nice little terraced house with central heating which I share with three other girls. I have a yearly contract with a private landlady and I pay £220 a month for my study bedroom. This is not bad as it also has a large walk-in wardrobe where I put all my stuff. I share the bathroom, kitchen and a small living room with the other girls, and we split all the bills between us. We tried to make a rota for the washing up, cleaning and putting out the rubbish, but it's not always strictly followed. Cooking your own food is much cheaper than eating at college, and I like it because I have what I want when I want it.

C

Becky Martin

I live in a college-owned self-catering block. There's not much luxury, but I get value for money. For my £38 per week rent, I get a reasonably-sized room with an old wardrobe, a tiny desk, one shelf, a rather stained carpet and a sink. When I first moved in, I probably spent more on decoration than I did on food. My only real complaint, though, was that I had to buy a new pillow because the one I was provided with felt like a plastic bag full of old towels. I share the kitchen and bathroom with six other girls. One of them has a TV in her room, but she is a bit possessive about it. The fridge is not huge, so you're always trying to squeeze your food into the last remaining inch of space. I twice set off the fire alarm by burning my dinner, so tended to give up on cooking after that. We eat a lot of take-aways. In the next block, there's a games room where we hang out which has things like table football and satellite TV if you need a break from studying.

D

Karl Yorat

I made the big mistake of going to a college fairly near my home. It isn't so much the course that I don't like, but the fact that I'm stuck at my parents' house so I don't feel in touch with what's going on at campus. In some ways I'm lucky because I'm not paying out all the money for food and rent that other people have to find, and I have someone to do my washing, but I don't have the same amount of freedom or privacy as the people who're living away from home. I even have to share a room with my younger brother. When I told my parents I wanted to move out and go into college accommodation, they said they'd stop supporting me financially. So, in the end, I had to give up the idea, that hasn't made any of us very happy.