READING

Task 4

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (17–21). There are three choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

ADVICE ON SKIING

Snow skiing successfully requires technique, practice and determination to have a pleasant time. Skiing downhill is the only way to snow ski when you are on the slopes. Knowing how to get down those slopes is key to becoming an advanced skier. Take a look at these steps to learn the concept of skiing downhill, and then get on the slopes and practice the technique.

17 ____

Keep hands forward in peripheral vision, knees slightly bent with the shins pressing against the boot tongues.

18 ____

Body's weight mass is continually carried forward on the skis to help in turning. Practice shifting your weight from the downhill ski to uphill ski to get yourself down the mountain. Shift your weight ever so slightly while lifting the tail of the downhill ski.

19 ____

Using your wrist, swing the downhill pole tip forward. Touch the snow lightly with the extended ski to start the turn downward.

20 ____

Every time you manage to do the right actions get confident. Get sure of yourself making those tunes. Practice until you feel confident.

21 ____

You can do this with a light change in the turning process. Simply round the completion of the turn by moving the skis a tad uphill. Try varying the width of the turn as you go downhill. Go from large to medium to small turns. Next thing you know, you will be skiing downhill faster and better each time.

A Complete ski gear
B Control your speed
C Start with a comfortable stance
D Get assured
E Extend your uphill ski
F Choose the proper ski length
G Feel your weight on the ball of the feet
H The downhill ski movement

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 5

Read the text below. For each empty space (22–26) choose the correct variant (A, B, C, D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

ANCIENT DNA REWRITES THE HISTORY OF THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH

Fifteen thousand years ago, woolly mammoths and North American horses roamed the cold grasslands. They're extinct now, but we know quite a bit about them because of the fossils they left behind in places like Old Crow, the Klondike, and parts of Alaska.

However, we don't know when they disappeared or why. The conditions that preserve bits of dead animals as fossils are rare, and the chances of finding the fossil remains of the last woolly mammoth or the last North American horse are so small that they make winning the lottery look like a sure thing.

But animals leave more than bones behind. Animals shed bits of their genetic material as they move through a landscape. It comes from their urine, dropped hairs, and even sloughed-off skin cells. Modern instruments and lab techniques can detect that genetic material.

If the circumstances are right, the genetic material — the DNA — can be preserved for thousands of years. University of Alberta researcher Duane Froese and an international team are analysing sediment cores from several places in the Yukon and Alaska in search of the last of the big ice age mammals, the megafauna.

The first of the evidence is in, and it's startling. Sediment cores from a site near Stevens Village, on the Yukon River in Alaska, show that woolly mammoths and North American horses survived in that area until at least 10,500 years ago, and maybe even later.

Froese says the Blitzkrieg hypothesis argues that when humans arrived in the Americas, they hunted the large mammals to extinction very quickly. However, the DNA evidence shows that humans coexisted with the ice-age animals for thousands of years.

'Interestingly, even though the DNA is fragmented and quite short, we could establish that there were two different mammoths that contributed DNA to the sample, and that they both belonged to a particular herd that were related to the last surviving populations recovered in Siberia on Wrangell Island.'

The DNA itself can't be dated, but its age can be determined by dating the sediment layer in which it occurs. In the parts of Alaska and the Yukon where the glaciers didn't reach, tens of thousands of years of sediment layers have accumulated beneath the current ground surface. Froese and his colleagues have been sampling and dating those sediment layers for many years, but the idea of searching them for DNA first came up in 2003.

The researchers have spent two summers sampling and dating the Klondike sediments. The abundant plant material trapped in the sediments makes it possible to date them accurately. It also provides information about the environment of the past.

22 To state the reason of North American horses extinction is difficult because ____ .

A nobody knows where they lived
B there are only a few fossil remains
C the snow covered their remains
D it's impossible to go to the northern parts of Alaska

23 Scientists can use ____ as the genetic material for experiments.

A bones
B excrements
C skin cells
D all of the above

24 The genetic material for scientific researches was found ____ .

A in the university of Alberta
B in the Yukon River basin
C under the mass of snow in Alaska
D in the southern Yukon Valley

LIVEWORKSHEETS

25 The international team of scientists proved that ____ .

A humans never hunted the large mammals

B people never saw the ice-age animals

C humans and big ice age mammals lived together for a certain period of time

D people killed the large animals the moment they saw them

26 The researchers are motivated to continue their work because ____ .

A they have found new sediment sites

B they want to check their previous deductions

C their university has been moved to Alaska

D sedimentary DNA is worth learning

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 6

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (27–32). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

CULTURAL EVENTS

By Cheryl Schroeder Basile

27 A cultural or international-themed event allows your guests to travel to exotic new places without stepping on an airplane. These events can be as simple or as elaborate as your budget and creativity allows. When planning international-themed events, most people immediately think of a Mexican fiesta, Hawaiian luau, Chinese New Year's celebration or an Italian pizza and pasta party. When planning your cultural event, consider some unique themes.

28 Who wouldn't want to spend a day in the City of Lights? Decorate the room with posters of the French capital and pots of tulips and hyacinth. Drape wisteria over metal or wood lattice panels. Use round café-sized tables with Eiffel Tower-shaped votive candles. Play French background music by Yves Montand, Charles Aznavour, Jacques Brel or Mireille Mathieu. Make place cards from old postcards. Serve a variety of French wines and cheeses complemented by strawberries and slices of apples and pears.

29 Take your guests back to ancient Egypt with this party. Check with your party rental agency for things that you can adapt to create an Egyptian environment, like stone pillars, palm trees and canvas desert-style tents. Play a travelogue DVD on Egypt during the party, projecting the images on one large blank wall. Cover tables with brown craft paper and sprinkle sand on them. Serve platters of shish-kabobs, pita bread, dried fruit. How about a pyramid- or sphinx-shaped cake?

30 This party captures the romance of Doctor Zhivago. Place evergreen trees around the room. Sprinkle them and the floor with artificial snow. Cover tables with white fleece; sprinkle with iridescent glitter. Suspend plastic snowflakes from the ceiling at various heights. Decorate one corner of the room with a real troika or horse sleigh. Lightly spray windows with artificial ice crystal spray for a frosted windowpane look. Play 'Lara's Theme' and other music from Doctor Zhivago during the party. Serve tea from a samovar. For appetizers, serve crackers topped with caviar or smoked salmon. The menu could also include beef stroganoff and cherry-filled blinis.

31 Start with a large canvas tent or drape fabric from ceiling to create a tent effect. Remove all furniture and cover floors with carpets and large velvet cushions. Place pots of palm and fern plants around room. Serve food on low coffee tables illuminated by oil lamps. Serve al-kabsa, a traditional Saudi chicken and rice dish. A CD of Middle-Eastern music will add an exotic ambiance to the party.

32 Decorate as elegantly as your budget will allow. Rent a backdrop with an image of a Venetian canal or the Rialto Bridge. Your party rental store may also have a gondola available, which would be great for guest photos. Drape tables with black and white harlequin-patterned tablecloths and include centrepieces made with ostrich feathers and Venetian masks. Serve Venetian cicchetti (appetizers) like fried crab claws, marinated sardines, calamari, veal meatballs or stuffed porcini mushrooms. Don't forget to serve Spritz, Venice's most popular drink, which is made with white wine, mineral water and [illegible]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Which event can be described as...?

A Venetian Carnival
B April in Paris
C Russian Winter Wonderland
D Planning your cultural event
E A Cruise Down the Nile River
F Midnight at the Oasis
G Eating pizza in Italy
H Hawaiian Wedding

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 7

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (33–38). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

CLASSICAL GRAB-AND-GOERS. WHO ARE THEY?

The Christmas shopping season is in full swing, and many of us will be spending several hours, or even days, trailing round the shops or surfing the Web, struggling **(33)** _____ for the special people in our lives. But if you're the sort of person **(34)** _____ if it's a trial to be endured and dealt with as quickly as possible, then there's a new term of reference for you — you belong to the ranks of the grab-and-goers.

A grab-and-goer is a person **(35)** _____ — sees it, grabs it, goes to pay. The classic grab-and-goer is someone **(36)** _____ , whatever they're shopping for and whatever the time of year. However the expression is also sometimes used to describe a person who buys things quickly because they simply don't have enough time **(37)** _____ — they need to get that purchase made so that they carry on with the rest of their day. A person **(38)** _____ is an example of this kind of grab-and-goer.

The term grab-and-goer most often crops up in the domains of retail and marketing, where product packaging and methods of display are crucial in attracting the attention of quick and impulsive buyers.

A to find the right way to the shop
B for whom Christmas shopping is positively the worst way to spend your precious free time
C to linger over the decision
D who regularly buys breakfast en-route to work
E who lends you money for shopping
F to find those perfect gifts
G who buys things quickly and without any deliberation or forward planning
H who just dislikes shopping

LIVEWORKSHEETS