

- I. YOU ARE GOING TO READ AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY A YOUNG PIANIST. FOR QUESTIONS 1-8 CHOOSE THE ANSWER (A, B, C OR D) WHICH YOU THINK FITS BEST ACCORDING TO THE TEXT.

Berrak: A pianist

I started playing the piano when I was four years old. My mother thought it would be a good outlet for positive childish energy and I was really into it; it was exciting. It was something different and I had much more time to practise then. The first time I performed in front of an audience was when I was five years old and I loved it. I went on a summer camp run by my piano teachers at the time and at the end of the week we all got up and played a piece. At that age I was unaware of any of the pressure associated with performing live so it just felt nice to have people concentrating on my playing and I liked the applause and attention. Now I perform regularly, often in front of large audiences, and I still really enjoy it.

I always knew I wanted to be a pianist and never thought I would do anything else. In that respect I felt different from my friends when I went to school; they all thought they wanted to become teachers or doctors and things like that and I just knew I would be a pianist but it didn't feel strange. Finding time to play and practise wasn't a problem at school until my last few years when the pressure of exams and things was hard, but generally I would choose to practise instead of doing homework. It always felt like schoolwork got in the way of playing the piano rather than the other way around.

Unfortunately I was never given any special allowances or extended deadlines though. After I finished school I went on to study a degree in music and now I'm studying a Masters degree in accompaniment. A typical day now involves a couple of hours practice in the morning before going into college and attending classes. I spend a lot of time in the library listening to music, trying to learn and become familiar with new pieces of music. One downside to choosing to study and pursue a career in music is that you end up spending hours and hours by yourself. However, I also try to spend time at college line 22 meeting other people and networking. The more musicians I know the more likely I am to be asked to play for others. ^The more I play the better known I become and in the music business it's all about recognition and getting your name out there. It's important to get involved in as many performances as possible and take part in competitions so that as many people as possible see you perform and know who you are. It's a very competitive industry. Ultimately, if I am asked to play and get given a job it means that someone else loses work and sometimes it feels like a constant battle. You can't help being drawn into an artificial world where you are constantly comparing yourself to others and are always worried about what others think of your performances. In the real world outside of college your audience is much wider. I chose to get involved in accompaniment because as much as I love playing the piano I also enjoy working with others. And working as an accompanist is a good way of doing that. There are also more job opportunities as although there is still a lot of competition other performers will always need good accompanists, so there is more demand. I really enjoy performing with other people because there's an even greater sense of achievement when you are both on form and a piece comes out amazingly. To follow a career in music you have to have a real passion for it as unfortunately it's not a very secure path and it's not usually very well paid. Having said that, the real positive side is that I am doing something I love; it's not just a subject to study. I love everything associated with music and performing and it's what I do every day.

How did Berrak feel about playing the piano when she was very young?

- A. She really enjoyed it.
- B. She only did it because her mother wanted her to.
- C. She didn't like the fact she had to practice a lot.
- D. She felt strange and different from her friends.

How did she feel the first time she performed in front of an audience?

- A. nervous and under pressure.
- B. strange because everyone was looking at her.
- C. happy and relaxed.
- D. She was concentrating so much on playing she didn't notice the audience.

Why did Berrak feel different from her friends when she was at school?

- A. Because the teachers gave her less homework.
- B. Because her friends didn't know what career they wanted to follow.
- C. Because she was the only one who wanted to become a musician.
- D. Because she found the pressure of exams less stressful.

Why does she say it is important to meet and talk to other musicians at her college?

- A. Because the music industry is very sociable and it's important to have lots of friends.
- B. Because she feels lonely after spending so much time by.
- C. Because other musicians in the college are very supportive of each other.
- D. Because it increases her possibilities of being asked to perform.

When she says in line 22 that 'in the music business it's all about recognition and getting your name out there' what does she mean?

- A. It's important that people know who she is when they see her photograph.
- B. It's important that lots of people know what she does and know her name.
- C. Her name is more important than the way she plays.
- D. Her name needs to be easy for people to recognise and remember.

Why does the college environment often feel like a constant battle?

- A. Because there isn't enough work for everyone.
- B. Because she doesn't get on with the other students there.
- C. Because there are lots of competitions.
- D. Because the teachers are always comparing the students and deciding who is better.

Why did Berrak decide to go into accompaniment?

- A. Because she thinks it can be more challenging.
- B. Because it's better paid.
- C. Because she can achieve more and become more well-known.
- D. Because she likes working as part of a team.

What does she say is the best thing about studying and pursuing a career in music?

- A. She could become rich and famous.

- B. There are lots of job opportunities.
- C. She spends all her time doing something she loves.
- D. She finds it an easy subject.

PART 6

- II. YOU ARE GOING TO READ AND INTERVIEW WITH A COUPLE WHO OWN A HOLIDAY HOME IN THE FRENCH PYRENEES. SEVEN SENTENCES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ARTICLE. CHOOSE FROM THE SENTENCES A-H THE ONE WHICH BEST FITS EACH GAP, THERE IS ONE EXTRA SENTENCE WHICH YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE.

Why did you decide to buy a holiday home here?

We have always loved travelling and spending time in different countries on holidays. It made sense to us to have somewhere which was our own, where we could go back to again and again whenever we liked. (9) _____ It has everything we were looking for: mountains, beautiful scenery, good countryside for walking and there are towns and a major city nearby. We looked at some very remote places but decided we wanted to be in a town. We enjoy being able to walk down to the shops in the morning to get fresh bread and walk to a restaurant for dinner in the evening. It was important to us that it was easy to get to for short holidays too so the fact that there is an airport nearby was a key factor. (10) _____ We love both of our houses even though they are very different in style and in very different places.

How did you find this particular property?

We did some research into the area we liked and we looked at adverts on the Internet, which gave us an idea of what was available. Then we went to an agency which specialised in property in the area where we were looking. They were really helpful and in three days they took us to a number of different houses as well as some empty plots of land with potential for building a new property. (11) _____ We spent time talking to the couple who were selling it and looking around the garden as well as the house. It's not a big house; there are only two bedrooms, but it is exactly what we were looking for. It has a fantastic terrace with views of the mountains and because it is high up we can see right over the town too. It's very picturesque. It has a wonderful big fireplace too so is nice and warm in winter. In fact it is a beautiful place to have a holiday at any time of the year.

What do you like most about owning a second home?

(12) _____ We spend lots of holidays here ourselves and sometimes friends and family join us, but we also let friends and family stay in it by themselves if they want to. It means the house is occupied more, and the more it is used the better. It would be a shame if it were empty a lot of the time. We also like that we have met some good friends here. (13) _____ It means we don't feel like strangers when we're here. Another thing we like is that there is always somewhere new to visit and explore as well as favourite places to go back to.

Have you ever had any problems with the house?

Fortunately no, nothing serious but it is always a worry when it is empty for long periods of time and we are so far away. We are lucky to have helpful neighbours and friends who live nearby who can keep an eye on the

house for us. In the very cold weather last winter the pipe to the outside tap froze and split but the postman noticed and sealed it for us. We had a problema with the hot water tank once too. We arrived one time and turned it on and suddenly water started pouring down the stairs. (14) _____ We were able to get a plumber to come and look at it and then arranged for a new one to be fitted so it wasn't too bad. One advantage of not always being here is that we have been able to have both the bathrooms redecorated. Some friends of ours did all the work for us and it worked out really well.

Would you like to move and live here permanently?

No. We have too much that we would miss back home: good friends and family. (15) _____ We might come for a month or more at a time instead of a week or two as we do now. But we bought it as a holiday home or second home not somewhere to live all the time. We like having both our homes and don't want to give up either of them. We are very lucky that we can enjoy spending time in two lovely houses.

- A. We visited this area a couple of times and we really liked it.
- B. That wasn't a very good start to our holiday but it is lucky it happened to us and not friends of ours.
- C. Next year we will both retire and then we will be able to spend much more time here.
- D. And finally we were looking for somewhere in contrast to where we live the rest of the year.
- E. The house we now own was actually the last one we saw and we instantly knew it was perfect.
- F. The weather is usually better than what we're used to at home with lots of blue sky and sunshine, even in winter.
- G. It is so nice each time we come out to have a group of people to spend time with and social events to go to.
- H. We love that we can share it with our friends and family.

PART 7

- III. YOU ARE GOING TO READ AN ARTICLE IN WHICH FOUR PEOPLE TALK ABOUT TRAIN JOURNEYS THEY HAVE BEEN ON. CHOOSE FROM THE PEOPLE (A-D). THE PEOPLE MAY BE CHOSEN MORE THAN ONCE. WHEN MORE THAN ONE ANSWER IS REQUIRED THEY MAY BE GIVEN IN ANY ORDER.

A. London to Brighton (UK)

I spent over ten years doing this journey every day of the week. I'm very relieved I am retired now. I still do the same journey sometimes but now I don't have to travel in the rush hour and if there are delays it doesn't matter so much. The journey when it went well wasn't bad at all. It wasn't too long and I was usually able to sit down and read the newspaper. It was quite pleasant as long as there were no annoying people having loud phone conversations. But generally it was fine and not a bad way to begin and end a busy day in the city. The problems and stress came with the all too frequent delays and cancellations. It was extremely frustrating, especially as I

was paying so much money for my ticket. The cost was much too high in my opinion. I am glad I don't have to pay that anymore.

B. Moscow to St Petersburg (Russia)

The most memorable train journey I have ever been on was between Moscow and St Petersburg in Russia. We were about 17 years old and on a school trip to see the places we were studying in our Russian history lessons. We spent three days in Moscow then took the overnight train to St Petersburg. I remember feeling really excited about it. I had never been on an overnight train journey before. We went to the theatre on our last evening in Moscow and then went straight to the station to get on the train at about 11 pm. There were four of us in each room and our whole group occupied about two carriages of the train. Our teachers were very aware of the dangers of travelling by train at night in Russia and warned us never to walk around the train on our own. They told us to go in groups of three to the toilets so that two people could wait outside together while one person went in. That frightened us a little but nothing happened. I don't think we slept much; we stayed up most of the night talking, but I remember waking up in the morning and realising it was daylight outside and that we were in a completely new city. It was amazing.

C. Casablanca to Marrakech (Morocco)

We decided to travel by train because it was cheap and it only took three hours. Also, I thought a train journey through the desert would be interesting and different. In reality it wasn't quite as much fun as I had hoped. We got to the station in plenty of time and got our tickets without too much difficulty. The chaos started when we went out to the platform. It appeared that everyone else in the station was also planning to get on the same train as us. It was really crowded. When the train arrived it was a real fight to get on and all the seats were occupied in seconds.; My friend and I got separated in the confusion but there was no way we could move so we just had to stand where we were and hold on. My friend managed to sit down after about an hour but I had to stand for the whole three hours. The scenery was quite spectacular in places but the train was hot and uncomfortable.

D. Cairns to Karanga (Australia)

I went on this train journey while I was visiting some friends who lived in Australia. I went away for a few days on my own and before I left, my friends had recommended this trip; it was definitely worth it. It used to be an old mining train that took miners to work every day. It starts on the coast and goes right up the side of a mountain. It is very steep and the views are fantastic looking back out to sea. There is lots of information in the different stations about the people who built the railway originally. It was a very dangerous job and many of them died while they doing it, either through accidents or disease. The whole journey only takes about an hour but you see all sorts of amazing things on the way. At one point it even goes through a tropical rainforest and there are some really beautiful plants. It is a wonderful trip.

Which person or people was disappointed by the experience? _____

Which person or people learnt something interesting while on the journey? _____

Which person or people did this journey more than once? _____

Which person or people did this journey with one friend? _____

Which person or people thinks the price was too expensive? _____

Which person or people chose to do the journey because of the low price? _____

Which person or people says this was the first time they had been on a journey like this? _____

Which person or people have good memories of their journey? _____

Which person or people took this journey because of advice from friends? _____

Which person or people says they felt geared at one point on the journey? _____

Which person or people mentions something which irritated them while on the train? _____

Which person or people went on the longest journey? _____

Which person or people talk about what they could see outside the train? _____