Exam task

For each question, choose the correct answer.

THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN A TREE HOUSE

Luke Jackson and his parents moved from their apartment in Vancouver, Canada, to a tree house in the forest.

Earlier this year, I moved into a tree house. It had been my family's dream ever since we read an article on a website about people who live in unusual homes. My parents decided to design our new home without the help of an architect, so they spent hours watching online videos and reading library books to get ideas for our tree house. Now that we've finished it, it's exactly how we wanted to have it.

Our tree house is built around a very strong tree, so it can support the two floors that surround it. I used to have a big bedroom in our old apartment, but now my room is pretty small. However, I don't mind that at all because now it has an incredible view of the forest in every direction. It's fantastic – I really couldn't imagine living anywhere else now. Our next project is to finish the garden – it's going to be amazing one day.

I'll never forget the first night we spent in the tree house. When I was in bed, I started to notice how the tree house actually felt. I hadn't expected it to move in the wind like a boat on the ocean. However, it was quite relaxing and didn't take long to get used to. It was also really dark, because there are no street lights!

We don't have any neighbours nearby, so I spend a lot of time on my own painting and playing music in my room. What's great is that I can make a noise when I play my guitar up there since I live in the middle of the forest! I only wish more of my paintings could fit on my wall, instead of being in a big pile on the floor! My friend's coming to stay next weekend and I can't wait to welcome him to my home! I've already warned him that it'll be a bit crowded in my room, but that won't stop us from having fun together!

1 Where did Luke's family get the idea to build a tree house from?
- **A** from talking to another family member
- **B** from the internet and library books
- **C** from an architect
- **D** from an unusual home they visited

2 What does Luke like most about the design of the tree house?
- **A** what he can see from his room
- **B** its position in the garden
- **C** the size of his room
- **D** the tree it's built around

3 On his first night in the tree house, Luke was ...
- **A** surprised by the way it moved.
- **B** afraid of the noises he heard.
- **C** relaxed because it was so dark.
- **D** worried because there were no lights.

4 What else does Luke say about his bedroom now?
- **A** It is too close to his nearest neighbours.
- **B** It is a good place to play a musical instrument.
- **C** It has enough wall space for all his paintings.
- **D** It has plenty of room when friends come and visit him.

5 What might Luke write in a blog about his family's tree house?

A My family wasn't sure if we would be able to live in a tree house until we found an architect who could help us.

B I love living somewhere where all my friends can come and hang out in my room.

C Even though we haven't started looking after our garden, I prefer spending time there because it's just wild flowers and lots of trees.

D Moving from an apartment to a tree house has been an exciting adventure – it's a very different type of home.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exam tasks

Reading Part 3

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Student Adam Brown talks about growing up in a tiny house

I was nine when my parents first had the idea of moving from a normal-sized flat in the city to a small place in the countryside, and I was eleven by the time we actually did it. And when I say small, I mean really, really small. Our new home was about the size of a typical garage. Compared to the car-park-sized flat where we used to live, it was tiny.

We built our tiny house ourselves on a piece of land about two hours' drive from the city. We used to go there every weekend and during holidays to work on it, but, even so, it took nearly two years to finish. My mum designed the house to include all the basic things that a normal house has but fitted into a much smaller space. My 'bedroom' was built in a space under the roof that I could reach by ladder.

My parents were very happy with our new life. They enjoyed being able to grow our own fruit and vegetables and keep chickens to provide us with eggs. They were particularly pleased about not having to pay for power and fuel because we could produce our own electricity from the sun. We also collected wood from the land around us to burn for heat.

I remember that it took me a few months to get used to living in such a small space. At first, I missed having all my favourite toys and books around me. Before we moved from the city, we had had to give away most of our things because there wasn't enough room for them anymore, but now I don't mind having fewer things. And one thing I love about our tiny home is being able to spend so much more time outside – something I didn't do in the city very often. And I do a lot more things with my parents, which is great.

I'm away at university now, and share a flat with other students, where my bedroom is about the same size as my whole family home! When I go back to see my parents, I find it hard to manage now in such a small space. I don't think I'll choose 'tiny living' for myself in the future, but I'm glad that I've had the experience of it.

1 Why does Adam compare his old and new homes in the first paragraph?
- **A** to say that living in different homes is normal for him
- **B** to discuss the advantages of living in a small home
- **C** to make it clear how small his new home is
- **D** to suggest that flats are better than houses

2 What is Adam doing in the second paragraph?
- **A** complaining about how the house was designed
- **B** giving information about the building and design of the house
- **C** warning about the difficulties of building a small house
- **D** explaining why his mum wanted to build a small house

3 What did Adam's parents like most about their new home?
- **A** They could enjoy the land around them.
- **B** They could easily get the wood they needed.
- **C** They could keep animals.
- **D** They could get essential things for free.

4 In the fourth paragraph, how does Adam feel about living in a tiny home?
- **A** He has grown to like his new home over time.
- **B** He dislikes not having enough room for his things.
- **C** He wishes he had more time to be alone at his home.
- **D** He is getting used to spending so much time outdoors.

5 What might Adam write now in his diary about living in a tiny home?
- **A** I wish I hadn't had to spend so many years living in a tiny home.
- **B** I'm not that keen on tiny living now I'm older, but I'm happy that I've done it.
- **C** Why did Mum and Dad ever want to build a tiny home and move from the city?
- **D** As soon as I get the chance, I'm going to build my own tiny home to live in.

LIVEWORKSHEETS