Skateboarding
by Rachel Martin, aged 11

I've practised skateboarding for 18 months now, and I was the youngest person in a street skateboarding competition last year. I spend my free time at my town's new skatepark – I rarely stay at home and watch TV.

Before the new skatepark was built this year, the nearest skatepark was in a town 10 km away. Some of my older friends went there, but my mum wouldn't let me go because I wasn't old enough. The only place to skate was on the pavements, but then I fell and injured my arm. I wasn't popular with pedestrians either, so I stopped! Nowadays, though, I can use the new skatepark in the evenings – it's got huge lights, so you can use it even at night.

We've got a skatepark at our school now, too. It keeps us fit! The school skatepark is dangerous for smaller children like my little brother, though, as the teenage students also use their rollerskates or ride their BMX bikes there. I guess they prefer it because the skatepark in town is pretty busy.

I've always found schoolwork easy, but skateboarding is hard! My favourite trick is jumping over boxes. Doing things like that really makes you concentrate, which is a challenge, but it's something I really enjoy. My older sister works as a skateboard instructor, so one day I'd like to be like her. It's unusual for girls to skate around here, so although I love it, it's a bit lonely. I'd like more girls to join in!

21 In this text Rachel Martin

- **A** explains what equipment is needed for skateboarding.
- **B** describes the places for skateboarding in her area.
- **C** persuades young people to enter skateboarding competitions.
- **D** compares skateboarding with other sports.

22 Why was it hard for Rachel to go skateboarding last year?

- **A** There wasn't a skatepark near enough to her house.
- **B** None of her friends were able to go with her.
- **C** She was worried she would hurt herself.
- **D** She wasn't allowed to go out in the evenings.

23 What does Rachel say about the skatepark at her school?

- **A** It allows younger children to practise their skating.
- **B** It takes too many people away from other sports.
- **C** It is used for several different activities.
- **D** It is more crowded than the skatepark in town.

24 What does Rachel like about skateboarding?

- **A** getting the chance to be good at something
- **B** having to think carefully
- **C** learning new skills from her sister
- **D** doing an activity with girls of her own age

25 Which of the following might Rachel write in her diary?

A

Did another competition today – I won, although I was the youngest. But then I have got two years' experience.

B

Didn't feel like practising tonight, so stayed in and watched TV instead. That's the fourth time this week!

C

Was skating on the pavement today when I fell and hurt my ankle. I've done that three times now.

D

Couldn't use school skatepark today – there were too many bikers. My little brother wanted to play there but it wasn't safe for him.

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