**Semester I**

**Reading**

**Variant 1**

**1.Read the article about exchanging homes and for questions 1–6 circle the correct answer A–D.**

**DISCOVER THE WORLD IN AN AUTHENTIC WAY**

**Exchanging homes is a popular way of having a different kind of holiday. Jane and David Henderson and their two children, aged twelve and fourteen, recently did exactly that. They exchanged their comfortable three-bedroom house in a quiet, very green London district for a flat in Florida.**

We asked them if they would recommend the experience.

'Yes, most certainly,' David told us. 'It's a marvellous opportunity to enjoy a completely different lifestyle. The flat was huge and had all the modern equipment that makes life easier, but that wasn't what we liked most. It was the place itself that was incredible, situated on a piece of land with the sea on two sides. We even had a private beach; there was white sand and sunshine. It was beautiful.'

'We both have jobs which involve a lot of responsibility,' continued Jane. 'David works with computers and I'm a journalist, and of course our spare time is spent with our children.

In Florida, they entertained themselves. So, to do nothing but sunbathe, swim and shop was a new experience for us. And, because we had no hotel bills to pay, it was much cheaper and we could afford to stay for six weeks – it was wonderful!'

And what about the children? What did they do? Did they enjoy themselves?

'Yes,' said David. 'They had an absolutely amazing time. You see, when you live in somebody else's home, you don't just stay with the tourists and go on sightseeing trips, you meet the local people. Our children met the local children and explored all the best places in the area.'

But were there any problems when they returned to their home in England?

'None at all,' said Jane. 'The family from Florida left it clean and tidy. All our plants had enough water and looked happy, and they'd left us some beautiful flowers as a thank you. We never met them, but we talked a lot on the phone and they seem like nice people. We still write to them.'

So, will the Henderson family exchange their home again next year?

'Oh, yes!' David told us. 'Maybe we'll exchange it for a house somewhere in a far-away part of the countryside. That would be a completely different lifestyle again.'

**1.** The text is about people who …

**A** went on a luxurious package holiday.

**B** exchanged houses for a holiday break.

**C** sold their house in London to move to Florida.

**D** decided to permanently give up their stressful jobs.

**2.** The Hendersons' own home is …

**A** in Florida.

**B** near a village.

**C** in a peaceful part of London.

**D** in a far-away part of England.

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**3.** What the family particularly liked about their holiday was …

**A** the location.
**C** the different lifestyle.
**B** the size of the flat.
**D** the modern equipment.

**4.** Why did Jane and David enjoy the holiday so much?

**A** They spent all day sunbathing.
**C** They had more money to spend on shopping.
**B** They had a lot of time to themselves.
**D** They had plenty of time to spend with their children.

**5.** The children enjoyed the holiday because they …

**A** met the local people.
**C** could live in somebody else's home.
**B** went on sightseeing trips.
**D** explored the area with local children.

**6.** The two families …

**A** are in touch.
**C** will exchange flats next year again.
**B** looked happy.
**D** exchanged flowers and thank you letters.

## 2. Read the text and decide if the statements 1–5 are true (T) or false (F).

**Similarities attract**

'Similarities attract.' This phrase comes to mind as I look around at my guests. I can't believe how many differences there are between the people I know. Let's take the example of my manager. He is so arrogant that people in the office prefer to keep out of his way. His poor secretary speaks very timidly when he's around, as if she were very shy. But it's surprising how she comes alive the minute he leaves the room. You can see her happiness suddenly grow! My cousin Suzie, on the other hand, is the sweetest and most kind-hearted person I have ever known. The problem is that when she starts talking, she simply can't stop. Still, there are far worse habits than being talkative.

And finally, there is Ben. I love him quite a bit, but I'm definitely getting annoyed with his mania for computer games. Sometimes I'm not even sure if he knows what's real and what's just fantasy. But I guess it would be boring if everyone was the same.

1 The writer's guests are very similar to each other. ___
2 People in the office prefer to avoid their manager. ___
3 His secretary behaves differently when he is around. ___
4 When the secretary leaves the room, she feels happy. ___
5 Ben loves fantasy games. ___
6 The computer games sometimes annoy Ben. ___

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