

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear a text about an astronaut twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-8. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-8.

1 The speaker

- A gets bored of the things people ask her about space.
- B took two days to get used to being in space.
- C suffered an injury soon after returning to Earth.
- D found it hard to do everyday things after her space trip.

2 The effects of being in space have lasted quite a long time for the narrator because

- A she spent so much time in space.
- B she developed an illness in space.
- C she is a particularly tall person.
- D she is quite a new astronaut.

3 To make it easier to spend time in space and then return to Earth, astronauts can practise driving a special vehicle.

- A True
- B False

4 The speaker had no choice but to exercise while she was in space.

- A True
- B False

5 The speaker got fitter while in space due to the extra exercise.

- A True
- B False

6 Why does the speaker's body hurt after the mission?

- A she didn't use all of her muscles in space
- B she exercised too much in space
- C she walked around her house too much when she returned
- D she had to sleep in a very small place in space

7 The speaker lives in a home that has stairs.

- A True
- B False

8 What does the speaker say she couldn't "capture to bring home" from space?

- A the high quality of sleep
- B a high quality photo of Earth
- C a perfect place to sleep
- D the feeling of zero gravity

Task 2

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

Erasmus

Today, teenagers frequently can't wait for the opportunity to pack their bags and head off on an adventure to a foreign country. Fortunately, a highly successful European education and training programme launched in 1987 has enabled millions of university students to spend time studying and working abroad. Its principal aim is to foster understanding and innovation across the continent through student and staff exchange programmes. Called 'Erasmus', it is the EU's flagship education programme.

The scheme is named after the Dutch philosopher Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam, who was born in 1466, died in 1536, and spent his life travelling and studying in various European cities including Paris and Cambridge. Erasmus is both an appropriate and a clever name as the letters also stand for European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students. It not only encourages students to travel abroad and supports them while they are there but it also promotes and funds co-operation between universities and their staff across Europe. Erasmus is one of the most successful programmes ever put in place by the European Community. The vast majority of universities from all the European countries take part in the programme. Current figures show that over 200,000 students and 25,000 staff members make the move each year and this number is constantly growing. In all, more than 4,000 third level institutions in 33 countries participate.

Students who decide to sign up for the scheme either study at a university abroad or do an internship in a foreign company for three months to a year; this time spent away from home is recognised and validated by their own university, provided that certain agreed terms are respected. An important aspect of the programme is that students do not have to pay any fees to the foreign university and there are also a number of grants available for the less financially privileged ones. Some participants can also benefit from low rent or even free accommodation.

For a lot of young students, the Erasmus experience is their first time living abroad and for some it's their first time away from home. It is undoubtedly an important period in their lives and can have a determining effect on their future. In fact, studies show that time spent abroad not only enriches students' language skills and academic careers but also their intercultural skills, their self-confidence and their self-reliance. Therefore, having an Erasmus exchange on your CV increases a student's chances of employment in the future. What's more, students who have spent time abroad seem to be more open about their future options and more prepared to embrace other cultures. Some respected academics have even suggested that former Erasmus students will be the backbone of a future pan-European identity.

1 The Erasmus programme has been in existence for over 30 years.

- A True
- B False

2 The Erasmus programme was named after its founder.

- A True
- B False

3 What is true about the programme?

- A All of the universities in Europe take part.
- B Its name seems to have been chosen carefully.
- C It provides no direct funding to participants.
- D Most universities Erasmus visited participate.

4 The Erasmus programme

- A only involves students.
- B is the number one success story in the EU.
- C is getting bigger every year.
- D involves more staff than students.

5 Students in the Erasmus programme

- A are given jobs with foreign companies.
- B spend time studying in other countries.
- C travel around Europe sightseeing.
- D may spend up to three months as interns.

6 The word ones refers to

- A universities.
- B companies.
- C students.
- D grants.

Directions: Read the text again and answer questions 7-9 using short phrases only.

7 What is the main goal of the Erasmus programme?

8 Apart from their studies and exposure to a new language, how do students benefit from participating in the programme?

9 Why do some intellectuals believe Erasmus students will benefit Europe?