# WRITING

## TASK 1

**Read the text below.**
**Fill in the each gap with the one word which best fits each space (47-50).**
**Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.**

VOLCANOES

The rumbling sound begins. It builds up, getting louder and louder. The ground begins to shake. Off in the distance, columns of smoke begin to rise **(47)** ..... the volcano. Finally, it erupts in a huge explosion of rocks, debris, fire, and ash, sending hot vapours hundreds of feet **(48)** ..... the air. Volcanoes — **(49)** ..... erupting suddenly or quietly, in a giant fanfare or with a quiet lava flow — are perhaps nature's most awesome and incredible show of force. This natural disaster, with its rich history of legend, is **(50)** ..... incredible machine.

## TASK 2

**51.** You got a brand new netbook for your birthday, but there was something wrong with the memory disk.
Write **an email** to your friend telling him/her:

- what the problem was;
- how you discovered it;
- what you did to improve the situation.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## TEST 15

# READING

## TASK 1

**Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5).**
**There are three choices you do not need to use.**

### HOW TO STOP AIRPLANE SICKNESS ON LONG FLIGHTS

*By Traci Vandermark*

If you are a frequent traveller, then you may have encountered air sickness at one time or another. It is a form of motion sickness that happens as a result of air pressure and inner ear disturbances, which can cause an imbalance in the body's equilibrium. It is normal for even healthy people to experience air sickness, but it does not have to happen. There are simple, natural remedies you can use to keep from developing air sickness.

**1.** ..... At the first feeling of air sickness, take a nutmeg half and place it under your tongue. The nutmeg has calming and stabilizing effects, and when placed under the tongue it enters the blood stream quickly.

**2.** ..... Do this the minute you settle on the plane if you are prone to air sickness. If the airline doesn't have ginger tea bags (and most don't), take along your own and ask for some hot water. Ginger has a natural anti-nausea effect. If ginger tea is not available, ask for some ginger ale. It's a good idea to take along some ginger capsules just in case.

**3.** ..... Avoid sugar or meals high in carbohydrates before a flight. Sugars and carbohydrates can cause adrenaline rushes, which can give the feeling of air sickness or panic attacks. If eating before a flight, make it a high-protein meal with some low-carbohydrate vegetables.

**4.** ..... Sucking on them helps settle the stomach and dilute any acid that could be causing air sickness. The flight attendant will be happy to give them to you at any point.

**5.** ..... When booking your flight, try to get a window seat if you find that having the extra view keeps you calmer. If you find that sitting inside by the window makes you feel claustrophobic, book an aisle seat so you can move around when needed. Upon taking your seat, make sure the air vent over you is pointed directly at your face. The extra oxygen will help alleviate nausea.

---

**A** Take a bottle of whisky.
**B** Carry the whole nutmeg with you.
**C** Bring some peppermint gum.
**D** Meat and cheese make a good pre-flight meal.
**E** Find a good remedy.
**F** View from a window seat.
**G** Ask for some ice chips.
**H** Begin sipping some ginger tea.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## TASK 2

**Read the text below.**
**For questions (6-11) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).**
**Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.**

# WOOD SELECTED FOR NINE-STOREY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN THE UK

*By Krista Kimmo*

Using timber in the building reduced its carbon load by 310 tonnes compared to an equivalent building made from concrete reinforced with steel.

As far as is known, the Stadthaus in London's Murray Grove is the world's tallest residential building made from wood. Designed by Waugh Thistleton Architects, its load-bearing walls are made from cross-laminated solid timber panels. The stair and lift cores as well as the floor slabs are also made from wood.

Waugh Thistleton Architects say that they strive to design buildings which reduce the human impact on the planet. 'Therefore we" see it as vital not only to consider the energy use over the life of the building but also the energy expended in producing the building,' says Ms. Kirsten Haggart, project architect for Stadthaus.

For some years, Waugh Thistleton Architects have researched the use of solid timber structures to replace steel and concrete in housing.

'Timber sequesters 0.8 tonnes of carbon per one cubic metre and is a renewable material. In comparison, the production of both concrete and steel are one-way, energy-intensive processes that release large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere,' is how Haggart explains the reasons behind their interest in wood.

The nine storeys of the Stadthaus were assembled in nine weeks, which was significantly faster than could have been achieved with an alternative material. The speed was possible thanks to panels that were prefabricated down to the window and door openings by KLH company in Austria.

The panels were transported to the construction site by lorry, neatly stacked in the order of assembly. On delivery, the panels were immediately craned in position. Four craftspeople trained by KLH took a three-day working week to assemble an entire floor.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The building is based on a platform construction; in other words, each floor rests on the walls below. Haggart says that thanks to the pre-fabrication, the building site was also incredibly clean during the building process. Only a handful of waste was generated per week.

The timber panel system was also extremely easy to work with. The precision of the timber structure, compared with a concrete equivalent, allowed and required the architect to work with a very precise facade. The panel joins in the facade are in line across the entire building. As to the floors and walls, the measurements are accurate to +/- 3 mm.

---

**6.** The Stadthaus in London is known because of ..... .

A its storeys
B its unique constructing design
C its height
D its timber floors

**7.** The architects strove ..... .

A to use as much timber as possible
B to experiment with timber panels
C to reduce the use of concrete
D to be more eco-friendly

**8.** Waugh Thistleton Architects experiment with timber because ..... .

A it's a good isolating material
B it requires much energy
C it's not damaged
D it replaces steel

**9.** It took them ..... to finish the building.

A a month
B two months
C more than two months
D a year

**10.** The speed was achieved ..... .

A with prefabricated panels
B with platform construction
C due to a great number of workmen
D due to the accurate measurements

**11.** Everything in the Stadthaus is made from wood, except ..... .

A the load-bearing walls
B the windows
C the floor slabs
D the stair and lift cores

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## TASK 3

**Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (12-16).**
**There are three choices you do not need to use.**
**Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.**

# TOP SHOPPING MALLS

### 12. Mall of America

Welcoming over 30 million visitors every year, the Mall of America knows what attracts the crowds. In addition to having a fantastic collection of stores, they also provide shoppers with a little entertainment. First, there are a number of restaurants for you to get refuelled. Second, you can watch a movie at one of the 14 available screens. Last, there is an amusement park and aquarium right inside the mall. Oh, and you could get married here as well.

### 13. Rodeo Drive

For those who have never heard of Rodeo Drive before, you should know that it has absolutely nothing to do with cattle or westerns. In fact, nothing could be farther from the truth. This fascinating shopping district is where the elite come to play and where the rest of us learn the art of window-shopping. Versace, Yves Saint-Laurent, Gucci and Cartier are only a few of the mega names that call this zip code home.

### 14. Ala Moana Centre

What could drag you away from the ocean breezes and Mai Tais? Well, the largest open air shopping centre in the world of course. Over 50 million visitors walk through its many aisles ever year. Another great reason to visit the Ala Moana Centre is its 'Centrestage' where you can watch a number of fantastic performances. There is also an array of restaurants for you to enjoy. Whether you are in the mood for a quick bite to eat or a relaxing dining experience, you can find it here.

### 15. The Galleria Dallas

The Galleria Dallas is a great mixture of high-end and affordable shopping. Offering you famous brands from Gucci to Gap and Pottery Barn to Bath & Body Works you could spend an entire day here and still not get to see it all. Of course, when you get tired of shopping you can always make your way to the ice rink and strut off your Olympic talents. Prefer just to watch? Enjoy a great meal at one of the restaurants that surround the rink and enjoy the show.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**16. West Edmonton Mall**

Claiming to be the largest shopping mall in all of North America, the West Edmonton Mall is worth visiting. There are of course a huge number of stores for you to explore but it also has a great selection of other attractions for its guests... all 20 million of them. There is the World Waterpark, movie theatres, dinner theatre, casino, petting zoo, Ice Palace and much much more. It even has its own hotel.

**This place is worth visiting because** ..... .

**A** it provides you with a chance to breathe fresh air

**B** it has the biggest number of cinemas

**C** the visitors can go skating there

**D** you can see the latest fashion trends there

**E** it doesn't take much time to walk around it

**F** you go there only at night

**G** you can easily find accommodation

**H** the visitors can drive mini vans inside it

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## TASK 4

**Read the text below.**
**Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (17-22).**
**There are two choices you do not need to use.**

# GOLD RUSH

In 1897 newspapers announced the steamer Portland was bringing in a 'ton of gold'. People who had been penniless before (17) ..... . The people of the US who were facing a depression embraced the news. They flocked to Seattle and San Francisco trying to find passage to the Klondike. Many left for the gold fields, (18) ..... .

To get to the Klondike by land you would have to travel over either White Pass or Chilkoot Pass. One person said that no matter which way you went (19) ..... .

White Pass was referred to as 'Dead Horse Trail', for some 25,000 horses died from the strain and were trampled to nothing on that trail. Chilkoot Pass was a 25 mile long trail (20) ..... . It shot up half of that in that last 1/2 mile. They also experienced trouble with avalanches.

The climate called for different attire and most men were shocked to find many women wearing men's attire. The other popular outfit was bloomers with short skirts. Because they were around such rough men many women even (21) ..... .

Women from all walks of life joined the Gold Rush. Some accompanied their husbands while others came on their own as fortune seekers. Women came north as miners, housewives, entertainers, shopkeepers, nuns, teachers, businesswomen, authors, and some even (22) ..... . Many women 'struck it rich'. One of these hard working women was Mrs. Willis. She staked a claim that yielded $ 300,000. She also opened a laundry business in Dawson City.

---

**A** were highly paid employees
**B** were now rich beyond imagination
**C** that shot up two thousand feet
**D** but very few came back rich
**E** the profitable job of sharing overpriced drinks
**F** came as tourists
**G** acquired the habit of swearing
**H** you would wish you had taken the other way

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**TASK 5** **Read and complete the text below.**

PILOT TAKES OFF IN KID-BUILT PLANE

Pilot Barrington Irving loves flying, so he (23) ..... an organization called Experience Aviation to (24) ..... kids to learn about aviation, math, and science. He also has a lot of faith in kids' (25) ..... . To prove that, Irving told a group of 60 teens from Miami that if they built a plane, he would fly it.

The kids, who were part of an Experience Aviation summer programme, had ten weeks to build a plane. None of them had any experience building planes. But they finished the plane, named Inspiration II, by the (26) ..... . On October 15, 2008, the students and a crowd of others held their (27) ..... , as Irving fired up the plane's (28) ..... . Then he (29) ..... into the sky. After about ten minutes, Irving landed the plane safely as people on the ground (30) ..... . Some of the kids could hardly believe what they had done — they had learned to measure and (31) ..... metal, drill holes, use a rivet gun, and work together to create an airplane that could really fly!

Some people might think Irving was very brave to fly the plane. But Irving, 24, already had shown how brave he is. In 2007, he became the first black pilot and the youngest person (at age 23) to fly around the world by himself. It took him 96 days.

Irving's plane was called Inspiration because he said he wants to inspire young people. Irving (32) ..... in a poor Miami neighbourhood, where he didn't think he had much of a future. But when he was 15, he saw a 747 jet's cockpit and decided he wanted to be a pilot. He worked several jobs to (33) ..... for flying lessons. Irving enjoys aviation so much that he wants other young people to learn about aviation and (34) ..... their own dreams.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **23** | A organized | B did | C thought | D started |
| **24** | A make | B inspire | C let | D allow |
| **25** | A aptitude | B capacity | C abilities | D might |
| **26** | A deadline | B limit | C frame | D zone |
| **27** | A breeze | B breath | C breathe | D broth |
| **28** | A turbine | B cylinder | C engine | D dynamo |
| **29** | A winged | B lifted | C mounted | D soared |
| **30** | A cheered | B comforted | C elated | D consoled |
| **31** | A divide | B cut | C raze | D clip |
| **32** | A grew in | B grew about | C grew up | D grew at |
| **33** | A share | B give | C grant | D pay |
| **34** | A follow | B track | C trail | D chase |

LIVEWORKSHEETS