TASK 5

Read and complete the text below.
For the empty spaces (23-34) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).
Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

AN ALLERGIC WIZARD

By Pedro Pablo Sacristan

Once upon a time there was a good, (23) ..... wizard who loved to use his magic to make everyone happy. He was also quite an unusual wizard because he was allergic (24) ..... a load of different foods. He had to be very careful what he put in his mouth. He was always being invited to parties, and he would always gladly (25) ..... , because he always had new tricks and games to try out.

In the beginning, everyone was considerate about his allergies, and they took (26) ..... care to prepare food that he would be able to eat safely. But as time went on, people tired of having to prepare special foods for him. They began to forget his dietary (27) ..... . After having enjoyed his magic, people would leave him by himself, and the parties became (28) ..... enjoyable. Sometimes they didn't even bother to tell him what was in the food, and, more than once, he (29) ..... with a black tongue, a red face, and a very itchy body.

Angry at such lack of consideration, he waved his wand and cast a huffy (30) ..... that gave everyone a special allergy. Some became allergic to birds or frogs, others to fruit or meat, some to raindrops... And so, each person had to take special care from then on. (31) ..... people met up to eat or have a party, they ended up having to go to the doctor.

Ending parties in this (32) ..... was such a pain that, gradually, people began making an effort to learn what each other's allergies were. Now they would prepare everything carefully, so that they could have a good time together without getting sick. Visits to the doctor decreased, and in less than a year, life in town returned to (33) ..... filled with parties and celebrations, always attended by the wizard, who gave life and joy to the occasion. Even better, now he could stay and enjoy the (34) ..... party. No one would have suspected that, in that town, every single person was strongly allergic to something.

Some time later, without anyone knowing, the wizard waved his wand again and undid the spell. The people had learned well how to be considerate towards others, and how they could enjoy each others' company even better just by making a little effort to adapt to each and every person.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read and complete the text below.

For the empty spaces (23-34) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

23	A hearty	B enthusiastic	C high	D cheerful
24	A to	Bin	C of	D for
25	A take	B accept	C obtain	D welcome
26	A distinguished	B best	C special	D certain
27	A claims	B obligations	C conditions	D requirements
28	A more	B less	C least	D little
29	A ended up	B ended in	C ended with	D ended at
30	A charm	B spell	C trance	D magic
31	A Whatever	B Wherever	C Whenever	D At all
32	A post	B mood	C condition	D way
33	A common	B normal	C average	D habitual
34	A whole	B all	C general	D complete

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 6

Read the text below.
For the empty spaces (35-46) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).
Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

At some point, most people (35) ..... a gift that they either didn't want or didn't need. Whether it was a sweater in a colour that was completely wrong for the complexion or a painting that clashed with the receiver's home decor, (36) ..... what to do with an inappropriate gift is often a concern. For many people, however, the (37) ..... option is to return or exchange a gift that has missed the mark.

The answer to whether it is wrong to exchange a gift (38) ..... on who is asked. There will always be traditionalists who feel that a gift (39) ..... as a token of affection or appreciation should be kept, (40) ..... whether or not the item is needed or wanted by the recipient. It's hard to argue, however, that it would be morally wrong to exchange a dress that's two sizes too small or return a duplicate copy of a book that is already owned for the bestseller the receiver been dying to read. (41) ..... , if the person who gave the gift has enclosed a gift receipt, it's safe to say that he or she (42) ..... if the gift is exchanged for something better suited to the receiver's tastes. Of course, if hurt feelings are a concern, the receiver could always ask the giver what he or she would prefer that you (43) ..... with the gift.

Before returning or exchanging a gift, it's best to contact the store to ask about its policies in advance. Some stores only allow returns or exchanges with a receipt. Others require that all returns and exchanges be made within a specific time period, such as 90 days after the initial purchase. Typically, people have an easier time if they are hoping to exchange a gift for a similar item or store credit. Getting a cash refund for a gift is (44) ..... a difficult task.

Since many stores (45) ..... their policies for customers who want to return or exchange gifts, the practice of 'regifting' is becoming increasingly common. Giving a gift one person received to someone who he or she thinks would more appreciate the item can be a great way to make the most of unwanted or unneeded presents when it's impossible to exchange a gift. It's important (46) ..... that only items that are in new condition should be regifted. It's also a good idea to rewrap the gift and make sure it is not accidentally regifted to the person who originally gave the present in question.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the text.
For the empty spaces (35-46) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).
Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

35 A has probably received
B had probably received
C will probably received
D have probably received

36 A decided
B deciding
C having decided
D being decided

37 A preferred
B prefer
C preferring
D prefers

38 A depend
C depends
B depended
D depending

39 A given
C gave
B giving
D give

40 A regardless at
C regardless on
B regardless with
D regardless of

41 A Adding
C Additional
B Addition
D Additionally

42 A wouldn't mind
C minded
B won't mind
D will be minded

43 A did
C do
B does
D doing

44 A more often
C often
B most often
D ofterner

45 A had tightened
C have tightened
B has tighnetened
D tightened

46 A remember
C remembered
B remembering
D to remember

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

FLOODING

Heavy rain falls for days and days, building up **(47)** ..... much water for groundwater systems to handle. Slowly, the water level begins to rise, creeping higher and higher **(48)** ..... it floods into your home, submerging your furniture and belongings. In extremely bad cases, flash floods, with **(49)** ..... rushing torrents of muddy water, sweep **(50)** ..... houses, cars, trees, and people with ease.

TASK 2

51. On a separate sheet of paper write an essay on the following topic:
Mobile phones have made our lives much better.
Give your own reasons to support or deny the following opinions:

- mobile phones can help save people's lives;
- we can contact people much more easily;
- mobile phones can sometimes be a nuisance.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING

TASK 1

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5).
There are three choices you do not need to use.
Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Regardless of job or status, it is always appealing to meet someone who has an impressive knowledge base. But it's not just about winning at Trivial Pursuit or knowing the answers on Jeopardy; people are drawn to someone who. has facts and information at their disposal because it reinforces a social hierarchy. Information generates interest and being knowledgeable on a wide variety of topics can open doors to friendships, relationships and career opportunities. But how does one go about building a solid foundation of such knowledge? As a general rule, it can take a lifetime of soaking up bits of information around you to achieve this goal. But there are a few ways to quickly kick-start the journey to being a knowledge guru.

1. ..... If you must watch television, tune into educational programming on stations such as the History or Discovery channel. There is no need to take notes but it is important to train your mind to soak up everything it hears and sees. Cut out distractions and try not to eat while you are watching, as this inhibits your ability to pay attention. If you do happen to be watching regular programming or movies, focus on learning the actors and directors involved. Take an interest in the production and ask yourself questions like, 'How did they do that effect?' or 'I wonder where the idea for that joke came from?' Having an inquisitive mind makes TV less mindless and it is essential to creating a knowledge base.

2. ..... Many of the world's greatest minds seem secluded because they do not waste frivolous hours on Facebook. Instead, do an Internet search on something you may have an interest in, like skiing. Reading quick articles on topics that interest you piques your mind to thirst for more knowledge.

3. ..... Leave them in the bathroom and around the house and pick them up whenever you have a minute. The morning and night are some of the best times to feed your brain. They need not be encyclopaedias, just books that you won't mind skimming through when you have time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. ..... Take note throughout the day when there are questions you do not know the answers to or topics you know nothing about. Make a mental note to do a quick online search and educate yourself about them later. If you have a phone with online capabilities, don't be afraid to be that person who is always searching for an answer immediately. They are the people who often have a large amount of information at their disposal. Always be curious and seek to find answers.

5. ..... You will pick up information from others around you and will automatically find yourself forming opinions. Forming an opinion on something creates an interest and from there you will find yourself venturing out on your own to learn more.

A Feed your mind.

B Nurture your inquisitive nature.

C Restructure your means of entertainment.

D Purchase nonfiction books on topics that interest you.

E Don't waste time with media.

F Participate in conversations.

G Trim down networking on the phone or Internet.

H Develop a never-ending appetite for knowledge.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 2

Read the text below. For questions (6-11) **choose the correct answer** (A, B, C, D).

Sir Thomas More was the most brilliant Englishman of his age. He scaled the heights in law, in philosophy and literature, and attained high political rank as Chancellor. But the most challenging thing about this man is nothing that he achieved in life but the nature of his death. The facts are well known. He was executed by King Henry VIII in 1534 for refusing to accept Henry as head of the church in England. It is unclear why he chose to refuse and to die in this way.

Clouding the issue are the political and religious arguments which were at the root of his refusal and his death. It will be remembered that King Henry VIII was, for the most of his life, an ardent Catholic who was awarded the title of Defender of the Faith for his resistance to the Protestant reformation. But his desperation for a male heir led Henry to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, in favour of the younger Ann Boleyn who offered the promise of a son. High politics among the crowned heads of Europe meant that this could only be achieved by a break with Rome and the acceptance of Protestantism in England.

Traditional Catholic writers, such as Friar Anthony Foley, have cast More as a martyr who stood up for the cause of Catholicism and perished for the true religion. This interpretation was convenient for the Catholic church, then as now, and resulted in More being made a saint. It ignores, however, the fact that More took every step to stop his ideas being made a political issue. Whatever reason he had it was not support of the Catholic church. It also does not explain why More chose to take a stand, and effectively commit suicide. Even under the teachings of the Catholic church he could have sworn the necessary oath to Henry because he was under duress. The church in his day did not expect or require him to refuse. More's personal beliefs were his own but refusal to take the oath is what condemned him.

A more recent biography, by Paul Hardy, views More as a mediaeval man and not the renaissance man he is often seen as. As such, Hardy argues, he would have been deeply conservative. The changes which Henry was embracing, with the acceptance of Protestantism, would have been highly offensive. 'As a lawyer and Chancellor, More had spent his life defending the status quo and now it was turned round,' he writes. This rather ignores the deliberate modernity which imbued every other aspect of More's life from legal reform to the rewriting of school textbooks.

Other writers, such as the psychotherapist Bill Blake, see More's demise as an example of depressive illness. Melancholy was widely known at the time but not seen as an illness.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

It is not implausible that under the strain of work and the profile of his position as Chancellor, he succumbed to depression and, desperate and indecisive, let death sweep over him. But contemporary reports are odds with this. He made every effort to comfort and cheer up his own relatives and never appeared lost or undecided.

Since More himself left no explanation we will probably never really know what his motivation was. However, Hardy's observations are very true in some respects in that More lived in a very different world and one that is hard for us to understand. Life could be very cheap 500 years ago especially if one held high political office of intellectual views at odds with the establishment. After a lifetime of good fortune, considerable luxury and achievement, the wheel of fortune had turned, and More accepted his fate with good grace in the hope of an even better life in the hereafter.

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6. More was not expert in ..... .

A literature
B religion
C philosophy
D law

7. Henry VIII executed More because ..... .

A Henry VIII wanted a son
B More believed in Protestantism
C More was Chancellor
D More refused to take an oath

8. Henry VIII broke from Rome because ..... .

A he believed Protestantism was the true faith
B Rome helped him to get a divorce
C he wanted to ensure the succession
D he wanted to marry Ann Boleyn

9. The writer disbelieves traditional views of More's death because ..... .

A More committed suicide
B More didn't follow Catholic teaching in refusing the oath
C theories of depression are more persuasive
D little is really understood of the time More lived in

10. More's death is a mystery because ..... .

A he chose to be executed
B he left no written explanation
C the facts of his death are not known
D it is bound up in religious controversy

11. According to the writer, the life of an intellectual 500 years ago could be dangerous because ..... .

A the standard of living was cheap
B they held high political office
C their views were different
D they suffered from depression

LIVEWORKSHEETS