

FCE READING PART 1

 Exam task

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

0 A represent B indicate C refer D mention

Example answer: C

Off the beaten track

The expression 'getting off the beaten track' is used to (0) to the experience of avoiding famous tourist attractions and choosing instead to explore less well-known places when travelling.

For many people the whole (1) of travel is to visit cities such as Paris or Venice that have a great (2) as places of beauty and historic importance. Furthermore, they are not particularly (3) by the crowds that are usually found in such locations. But for others who have more of a (4) of adventure, a good holiday must (5) unfamiliar experiences, even taking some risks.

Travelling off the beaten track may be done by some students who don't (6) to a rigid plan, but make decisions about what to do depending on how they feel. Other travellers prefer to spend money on guided tours to unusual locations. Such tours are designed to (7) their particular needs, and all the arrangements are made for them. However people choose to get off the beaten track, the hope is always the same: to have a special, often unique (8) of a different culture.



- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 A worth | B point | C aim | D profit |
| 2 A favour | B approval | C reputation | D opinion |
| 3 A bothered | B interrupted | C offended | D disturbed |
| 4 A feeling | B impression | C mood | D sense |
| 5 A possess | B consist | C involve | D concern |
| 6 A fix | B stick | C fasten | D attach |
| 7 A please | B fit | C agree | D meet |
| 8 A experience | B understanding | C awareness | D knowledge |

FCE READING PART 2

 Exam task

For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: (0) NO

Running a marathon



So you want to run a marathon? There is (0) doubt that running 42 kilometres is a great achievement. Many training plans involve running four times a week for at (1) three months, and sometimes longer. Experts strongly recommend that you should (2) used to running long distances gradually. If you don't, it can increase the chances (3) picking up an injury. It (4) generally thought that runners should initially go on fairly relaxed training runs. The pace should be gentle enough to allow you (5) have a conversation with someone running alongside you. Don't make the mistake of eating too little before the race, or you will rapidly run (6) of energy. But (7) should you eat a large meal. It goes without saying that choosing the right footwear is also essential. (8) you do, avoid clothes made of cotton and go for artificial materials, or even some types of wool such as merino. Choose clothing that will be comfortable.

FCE READING PART 3

 Exam task

For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: (0) EXISTENCE

An interesting new planet

Until recently, the (0) of planets outside our own solar system was difficult to prove. Now, thanks to increasingly (1) equipment, hundreds have been discovered orbiting distant stars. Recent (2) of the nearest star to Earth, Proxima Centauri, have led to a (3) discovery: a rocky planet similar in size to the Earth which may have liquid water on its surface.

EXIST
SENSE

INVESTIGATE
SIGNIFY

Although the new planet is (4) closer to Proxima Centauri than the Earth is to the Sun, there is still a (5) of life there. This is because the star is much smaller and cooler than our sun, so conditions on the planet may be (6) enough to support life. Temperatures on the planet will be (7) on whether there is an atmosphere surrounding it.

CONSIDER
POSSIBLE

COMFORT
DEPEND

Travelling to Proxima Centauri and exploring its planet is totally (8) at the moment. Despite it being one of the nearest stars to the sun, it would take thousands of years to get there using current technology.

REAL

FCE READING PART 4

 Exam task

For questions 1–6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 On holiday I prefer going sightseeing to relaxing on the beach.

RATHER

On holiday I *would rather go sightseeing than* relax on the beach.

1. Nobody explained why the flight had been delayed.

REASON

Nobody gave to the flight.

2. Last year's skiing holiday was more exciting than this year's holiday by the sea.

AS

This year's holiday by the sea last year's skiing holiday.

3. Maria doesn't think we should visit the museum because it's not very interesting.

POINT

Maria says the museum because it's not very interesting.

4. All of us are excited about our trip to China next month.

LOOKING

Everyone our trip to China next month.

5. When I was in Sweden, I managed to learn some Swedish.

PICK

When I was in Sweden, I was some Swedish.

6. The architecture here makes me think of the buildings in Amsterdam.

REMINDS

The architecture here of the buildings in Amsterdam.

1. Going to bed early has a big effect on how Leila feels the next morning.

DIFFERENCE

If Leila goes to bed early, it how she feels the next morning.

2. Even though Max took the early bus, he was still late for work.

FACT

Max was still late for work in he took the early bus.

FCE READING PART 5

 Exam task

You are going to read a review of a TV programme about homes of the future. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

The homes of the future viewed from today

Mark Finchley reviews TV series *Tomorrow's Homes*

Having just watched the whole of Channel 8's TV series *Tomorrow's Homes*, I've been wondering about how anyone can predict the future of domestic life. You'd imagine that if you knew what architects and technology companies were developing now to make life easier, more exciting and more beautiful, you'd have a pretty good idea of what to expect in tomorrow's homes. In reality, it's more complicated, and just as much about what we'll choose to hang on to from **today's** – the things that are 'future-proof'. In the 1950s, people thought that in the twenty-first century household tasks would be done by labour-saving devices or robots – with food pills for dinner. Yet people still wash up and cook, even though the technology exists that makes neither of these tasks necessary.

Tomorrow's Homes, however, dared to make predictions which it turned into reality using an average home belonging to a family called the Forseys. Four miles of cable were installed in the house so that all the electrics, from lights to the fridge, could be controlled via the internet, and various other devices and gadgets were introduced in addition to this. The family were then filmed as they got used to their new home life. Programme presenter Harry Thwaites is also a consultant who spends his work life imagining the future, so testing out his ideas for the programme was a fascinating experiment for him. His approach was to use technology that was not totally brand new, but had only recently become more affordable. CCTV cameras for security have been around for years, for example, but they are no longer only an option for the mega-rich.

The Forsey family consists of a husband and wife with four children and two grandchildren. They appear to be very natural and ordinary on the programme, and it was always interesting to see how they reacted to



the technology they were testing. One example that **sticks** in the mind is when Janine, the mother, enters her reconstructed, all-white home (after successfully unlocking her new front door by using her thumb print as a key), and she immediately bursts into tears – quite understandably it has to be said. A short while later, her husband Ben gets locked out because the skin on his thumb is too rough. As the series progresses, however, they slowly come to accept the technology, and even start to believe it could have some value in their lives.

I was keen to see during the show if anything emerged as potentially future-proof, and there were some great examples. To help Janine deal with various worries, she was provided with a mind-controlled relaxation tool. This was a kind of headband connected to a DVD, which, incredibly, she could control with her thoughts. When she relaxed mentally, she made an image of the sun go down, as it would at night, on the DVD. When she had tried the gadget and achieved the sun set, she was asked how effective the gadget had been. Janine commented, 'Nothing can compare to a nice cup of tea and a good soap opera!'

1. The writer makes the point in the first paragraph that predicting how homes will be in the future
 - A** requires detailed study of architectural trends.
 - B** is impossible if you only look at new developments.
 - C** has been very difficult until now.
 - D** is made easier by programmes and articles about them in the media.
2. What does 'today's' refer to in the first paragraph?
 - A** current ideas
 - B** the present reality
 - C** the homes we currently live in
 - D** modern architecture
3. According to the second paragraph, the technology installed in the Forseys' house
 - A** was chosen to match the specific needs of the family.
 - B** was previously only used by a limited section of the population.
 - C** was still too expensive for anybody except the wealthiest.
 - D** was tried out by experts before the family used it.
4. What does 'sticks' mean in the third paragraph?
 - A** blocks something
 - B** remains there
 - C** corrects an error
 - D** highlights something
5. According to the third paragraph, how did the family members react to the new technology?
 - A** Their attitude towards it became increasingly positive.
 - B** Some of them adjusted more quickly to it than others.
 - C** The parents struggled with it throughout the series.
 - D** Some of their responses to it were surprising.
6. How did Janine feel about the mind-controlled relaxation tool?
 - A** She was amazed at what it was capable of.
 - B** She thought it would work if used with other things.
 - C** She found it totally useless.
 - D** She preferred more traditional methods of relaxation.

FCE READING PART 6

 Exam task

You are going to read an article about a national vote for people's favourite tree. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Tree of the Year



The aim of the national Tree of the Year competition is to promote and celebrate the most interesting trees around the country. Images and descriptions of a shortlist of 28 trees are put online and the public are asked to vote for their favourite.

The four trees that gain the most votes before 5 p.m. on 5th October will be given a grant of £1,000. In addition, all trees that receive 1,000 or more votes will get a grant of £500. The grants may be spent on a tree health check or advice from a tree expert, or an educational event, for example. **1**

Among the 28 shortlisted trees there are a wide range of tree species, each with its own unique, fascinating story. For example, the 'Ding Dong' tree is a copper beech tree growing in a primary school playground. It was named the 'Ding Dong' tree because of a game pupils invented in which they race to touch its trunk, shouting 'Ding Dong!' The protective space underneath the 50-year-old tree is used as a magical outdoor classroom, while the indoor classroom displays pictures of the tree through each season of the year. **2**

Many of the other trees in the competition are remarkable for their age alone. The Craigends Yew, for example, is thought to be up to 700 years old, making it one of the oldest in Scotland. It is an amazing sight as many of its branches have layered. **3** As a result of these extra growths, the total size when

measured around the tree's crown (the main body of its leaves and branches) is a massive 100 metres.

Another very old tree, the Holm Oak in Kilbroney Park, Northern Ireland, is much loved by local people. It measures 3.6 metres around the trunk, and its beautiful bark looks like the skin of a snake. **4** The advantage of this lack of uprightness is that young children can climb safely and easily on it. Kilbroney Park is home to many remarkable trees, but this tree was chosen as the favourite by community members.

A 500-year-old veteran oak tree stands in the ancient woodland pasture at Carngafallt in Wales. One of the interesting things about this twisted, hollow tree is that it has several 'air trees' growing out of it. An 'air tree' is one growing without its roots touching the ground.

5 It extends its roots down inside the oak's hollow trunk.

The original Bramley apple tree in Nottinghamshire is younger than many in this competition, but is the famous parent of all modern Bramley apple trees. **6** Many years later, Matthew Bramley, the new owner of the tree, was carrying some of his fruit when he met a gardener called Henry Merryweather. Henry asked if he could take some cuttings from Matthew's trees to grow his own trees. Mr Bramley agreed, provided they were named 'Bramley's Seedling'.

- A** This means that they are touching the ground and have taken root.
- B** These roots have become enormous with age and have now emerged above the ground. Children love to jump over them like horses in a race.
- C** But the most distinctive thing about this tree is that its main trunk is leaning towards the ground at an angle of 45 degrees.
- D** The best example of this on the big old tree is another species of tree called a rowan.
- E** Alternatively, they could be used to hold a community event in honour of the tree.
- F** It was planted from a seed in 1809 by a woman called Ann Brailsford.
- G** Children hang bird feeders from its branches and it is used as the focus of many of the educational activities going on around it.

FCE READING PART 7



Exam task

You are going to read an article about what five young people think about fame. For questions 1–10 choose from the people (A–E). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person

admits he finds certain aspects of fame attractive?

1

believes that fame makes those who get it focus too much on themselves?

2

describes some common beliefs about fame that he feels are untrue?

3

is critical of the way that famous people are treated?

4

says he is uninterested in the details of famous people's lives?

5

thinks being famous makes people distrust the motives of people they are close to?

6

outlines how fame can benefit society?

7

explains why he has some respect for everyone who is famous?

8

lists some of the ways that people might attract an audience?

9

suggests childhood experiences may cause some people to seek fame?

10

Fame and fortune

Five young people say what they think about fame.

A Stefan

Fame will bring you all the money, attention and love you could ever want! It will solve all your problems and make you feel fantastic! You'll never feel lonely ever again! These are the kind of lies about being famous the media feeds society through various channels. We are taught to highly value public attention, which celebrity-chasing individuals can get by eating insects in online videos, living in a crowded TV house, or being cruel or offensive on social media – it seems how we get it does not matter.

B Leo

One thing I've noticed about famous people is that they've often been through a negative event during their early lives – like the loss of a parent, or being rejected by a key figure in their lives. This has left them with a lack of self-confidence, which drives them to seek success on stage or screen to give them a sense of self-worth. The problem is that when they achieve fame, they begin to wonder if people love them for who they really are, or simply for the fact that they are famous. This makes it challenging for famous people to form secure relationships. Partly as a result of that, they end up socialising with other celebrities who have similar emotional problems, and this makes their situation worse.

C Franz

To be honest, the idea of being on a stage and having everyone focus on you is quite appealing to me, but I know that there's no way I'd enjoy the reality of being famous. When everyone knows who you are, it's as

if you're not human anymore. Fame means endless requests for pictures, autographs and stories for the tabloid press. Every mistake is exaggerated and nothing in your family life remains private. How could you not get fed up with that? I think that's why some stars become arrogant or unhappy, and unable to act like normal people, especially if they become famous at a young age and have to grow up with the public watching their every move.

D Mahomet

There is nothing wrong with being famous if it's because you are very skilled at something, whether you've written a bestseller, you're a brilliant surgeon or a great entertainer. Fame based on earning the respect or admiration of your readers, patients or audience can inspire people. It also provides a link between people – common ground that helps us feel part of a community. However, when fame is used merely as self-promotion to gain money or more attention for its own sake, then it adds very little to the world.

E Johann

I try to avoid reading about so-called 'stars' – they're just people like everyone else, and I really don't care if they're getting married, divorced or buying a new pet cat! On the whole, people who are famous seem to live in another world, where they are the only thing of importance. They are obsessed with their own lives, and the longer they stay in the headlines, the worse they get. One thing I do admire, though, is the ability they all share to recover time after time, when the media turns against them or their latest project has failed.