Special assignment: Reading and listening comprehension

Units 1 and 2: 2nd year

A) Read the text and answer the questions 1-5. Choose the correct answer (A-D)

Lost in Australia

When eighteen-year-old British student Sam Woodhead left college, he dreamed of joining the army – but he decided to have a gap year and go travelling first. Sam was already a keen long-distance runner and was very fit and healthy, but he thought backpacking in Australia was great training for his future.

In December 2012, Sam arrived in Central Queensland and found a job on a cattle farm. The farm was in the middle of the countryside, and Sam was enjoying his life there. One Tuesday morning, only eight days after his arrival, he decided to go for a run. But Sam made some mistakes. He took a heavy backpack but only one bottle of water. He also didn't have a route, and he didn't know the landscape. After only two hours, he finished his water and realised he was lost. The temperature was close to 40°C and he was soon exhausted. After four or five hours, he decided to stop and spend the night in the outback.

The next morning, Sam didn't report for work. His employers checked his room. His backpack and running shoes were gone, but his mobile and wallet were there. They called the rescue services and then they called Sam's family in England. The rescue services sent helicopters to the area to try to find Sam, but there were a lot of trees and plants in the area so it was difficult for the pilots to see a person on the ground.

Meanwhile, Sam was trying to find his way back. He made an SOS emergency signal on the ground from all the clothes in his backpack, including a pair of colourful shorts. Then, on Friday morning, Sam heard two helicopters flying over him. He shouted and waved his arms, but of course they didn't see him, and they couldn't hear him because their engines were too noisy. Then, in the afternoon, a third helicopter flew right over the SOS signal. At first, the pilot didn't see anything, but the wind from the helicopter's engine picked up Sam's shorts, and the pilot suddenly spotted them. He searched the area again, and at last he found the missing student only four or five kilometres from the cattle farm. Sam went to a hospital in the nearby town, Longreach, to recover. He was lucky to be alive!

1 Sam went backpacking because
- A he didn't know what to do with his life.
- B he didn't like being a student.
- C he wanted to become fit.
- D he thought it would be good for his career plans.

2 Sam got lost because
- A he didn't prepare well.
- B his map was incorrect.
- C the weather suddenly changed.
- D he wasn't well.

3 Sam's employers realised Sam was lost when
- A he called them from his mobile.
- B they saw that all his money was gone.
- C his family rang to speak to him.
- D some of his things were missing.

4 The rescue services found Sam after they
- A heard him shouting.
- B saw him moving about.
- C noticed his signal.
- D decided to land.

5 In the article, the author
- A gives advice on survival.
- B describes an adventure that went wrong.
- C advertises a rescue centre.
- D tells the story of Sam's career.

B)

1.24 Listen to six people talking about sport. Match sentences A–G with speakers 1–6. There is one extra sentence.

- A We learn how a new sport developed. _____
- B We find out about a new sporting venue. _____
- C The speaker is talking to holiday guests. _____
- D The speaker is talking about the different benefits of sport. _____
- E The speaker is describing a personal experience of a sport. _____
- F The speaker is advertising sports activities. _____
- G The speaker is explaining the advantages of extreme sports. _____