

Read the following text. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences B – I the one that fits gaps 1 – 6. There are TWO sentences you do NOT need to use

PUNCTUALITY AND DINING ETIQUETTE IN THE UK

British people place considerable value on punctuality. If you agree to meet friends at three o'clock, you can bet that they will be there just after three. Since Britons are so time conscious, people make great effort to arrive on time. 0

__A__ it is often considered impolite to arrive even a few minutes late . If you are unable to keep an

appointment, **__1__** . You should arrive at the exact time specified for dinner, lunch, or

appointments with professors, doctors, and other professionals. You should arrive any time during the hours

specified for teas, receptions, and cocktail parties. And finally, you should arrive a few minutes early for public

meetings, plays, concerts, movies, sporting events, classes, church services, and weddings.

If you are invited to someone's house for dinner at half past seven, **__2__** . An invitation might

state "7.30 to 8", in which case you should arrive no later than 7.50. However, if an invitation says "sharp", you must

arrive in plenty of time. "Drop in any time" and "Come see me soon" are idioms often used in social settings but

seldom meant to be taken literally; **__3__** . If you receive a written invitation to an

event that says "RSVP" (Please, reply), you should respond to let the person who sent the invitation know whether

or not you plan to attend as soon as possible.

Although it is not necessarily expected that you give a gift to your host, **__4__** , especially

if you have been invited for a meal. Flowers, chocolate, or a small gift are all appropriate; **__5__** _

and is an appropriate means to express your appreciation for the invitation.

Everyday dress is appropriate for most visits to peoples' homes. You may want to dress more formally when attending a

holiday dinner or cultural event, such as a concert or theatre performance. When you accept a dinner invitation, tell your host

if you have any dietary restrictions; **__6__** . And remember the evening meal is the main

meal of the day in most parts of Britain.

Read the following text. For questions 7 – 14, choose the correct answer a), b) or c).

HOMEOPATHY

Homeopathy is an extremely controversial issue. The National Health Service (NHS) says there is “no good-quality evidence” that homeopathy is effective as a treatment for any health condition, yet it funds it. Why and to what extent?

There are now only two NHS centres offering homeopathic treatments – in London and Glasgow. Another two former ones – in Bristol and Liverpool – have been moved into the private sector, but still see NHS patients. However, the way money flows around the health service makes it hard to work out exactly how much is spent across these sites. For example, patients receiving fertility treatment or being given support for pain or anxiety may get referred to these centres, but are not necessarily recorded as receiving homeopathic care. Nonetheless, the Good Thinking Society, which has been campaigning for the NHS to stop funding homeopathy, estimates spending is in the region of £5m a year.

The NHS also funds homeopathic remedies through prescriptions, but that does not amount to much in monetary terms. Last year there were nearly 9,000 issued at a cost of £94,000 in England. So let us call it about £5m of NHS funding for homeopathy each year. Now that sounds like a lot of money, but to put it into context the total amount spent on the health service across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is more than £130bn. It means less than 0.004% of the budget goes on homeopathy. It is a tiny fraction – a “drop in the ocean” says the association, yet enough to pay for an extra 200 nurses or 50 consultants.

Homeopathy is based on the concept that diluting a version of a substance that causes illness has healing properties. For example, pollen or grass could be used to create a homeopathic hay fever remedy. One part of the substance is mixed with 99 parts of water or alcohol and this is repeated six times in a “6c” formulation or 30 times in a “30c” formulation. The end result is combined with a lactose (sugar) tablet. Homeopaths say the more diluted it is, the greater the effect. Scientific consensus says patients are getting nothing but sugar. So why does the NHS fund it, given it does not even seem to believe it works?

To understand that, we need to go back to the start of the NHS. Homeopathy has been used since the 1800s and, by the time the health service was created in 1948, there were five homeopathic hospitals – the four mentioned above plus another in Kent which closed in 2009. Unlike now, there was not such a vociferous campaign against its use and so homeopathic treatments were brought under the NHS umbrella, where they have remained ever since. But in 1999 a drugs advisory body called the National Institute of Health and Care (NICE) was set up to carefully assess the cost-effectiveness of new drugs and technologies in Britain. They have looked at over 600 homeopathic treatments since, taking into account cost, how effective they are and whether there are other similar treatments available. The treatments NICE rejects get the headlines, so it may come as a surprise to many that they have actually agreed to recommend over 80% of them for NHS use.

So with ever-greater emphasis on evidence-based medicine – plus the increasing strain on resources – a growing clamour for an end to homeopathy funding has developed. In 2010 the House of Commons’ Science and Technology Committee called for NHS funding to stop as there was no evidence beyond a placebo effect – when a patient feels better because of their belief that the treatment works. Twenty years ago, there was close to £1m a year spent on homeopathic prescriptions, but the figure now is 10 times less, while NHS homeopathic centres have found themselves disappearing. Homeopathy, it could be said, is a historical anomaly, but one there seems to be a determination to rectify.

0. In the first paragraph, the writer says that homeopathy ... **(example)**

- a) belongs to the past.
- b) is a very controversial topic.**
- c) is an ancient type of medicine.

7. The writer suggests that homeopathy ...

- a) has not proved successful.
- b) is only offered in private hospitals.
- c) only works with some patients.

8. The amount of money spent on homeopathy is unknown because ...

- a) patients are recorded in different hospitals.
- b) patients are reluctant to mention it.
- c) the system does not keep accurate records of the actual treatment.

9. According to the writer, the money spent on homeopathic prescriptions ...

- a) accounts for a substantial percentage of the NHS budget.
- b) could be used to hire more health workers.
- c) is not funded by the National Health System.

10. According to the text, in homeopathy

- a) a low concentration of alcohol is crucial.
- b) sugar and water can heal you.
- c) what harms you can cure you.

11. The writer suggests that ...

- a) homeopathy was common practice before the 19th century.
- b) the health system subsidizes a questionable practice.
- c) the original NHS used only alternative medicine.

12. Most homeopathic treatments ...

- a) are rejected due to their cost.
- b) are viable options for NICE.
- c) have always been questioned.

13. Nowadays, the British government ...

- a) is determined to control medical expenses.
- b) is trying to prove the placebo effect of some treatments.
- c) is worried about evidence-based medical treatments.

14. The writer's attitude towards homeopathy is that ...

- a) it is expensive but necessary.
- b) it is a residue of old practices.
- c) it should cost ten times less.

Read the following text. For questions 15 – 22, choose the option a), b), c) or d)

IRELAND

Ireland is an island nation on the westernmost **0** edge **(example)** of Europe. It is the continent's second largest island, after Great Britain. The Republic of Ireland occupies 80 per cent of this landmass, **15** a large chunk of land in the north is part of the United Kingdom.

Ireland is known **16** its wide expanses of lush, green fields. About 15,000 years ago, Ireland was completely covered by thick glaciers. The movement of these giant sheets of ice stripped the soil, leaving huge tracts of flat, limestone pavement. The midlands and west coast of Ireland are dotted with the remains of dried-up ancient lakes left by the glaciers. Ireland's highlands **17** mainly in the southwest, often ending at sheer cliffs that plunge thousands of feet into the Atlantic Ocean.

Did you know that you will never come **18** a wild snake in Ireland? The sea has **19** many animals common on mainland Europe from reaching the island. There are also only two wild mouse species, one type of lizard, and just three kinds of amphibians. Although they are in danger of extinction, research is being carried **20** to guarantee their survival.

Irish wildlife is protected by government conservation programmes. To **21** their natural habitat, the government has established six national parks and hundreds of national heritage areas **22** the country.

15.	a)	even	b)	how	c)	when	d)	while
16.	a)	because	b)	for	c)	from	d)	thanks
17.	a)	arise	b)	lift	c)	raise	d)	rise
18.	a)	across	b)	into	c)	over	d)	up with
19.	a)	banned	b)	kept	c)	prevented	d)	stood
20.	a)	away	b)	off	c)	on	d)	out
21.	a)	deserve	b)	preserve	c)	reserve	d)	serve
22.	a)	above	b)	along	c)	over	d)	throughout