Semester II
Reading. Variant II

1 Read the text about memories and decide if the statements 1–8 are true (T) or false (F).

OLD MEMORIES

What is memory? It is the ability to remember past thoughts and feelings. If we didn't remember anything, we wouldn't learn anything. All our experiences would be lost when they ended.

So why do we forget some things? In general, it is time which has an effect on our memory. It passes, we learn something new, and that replaces what we learned before. An example of this is when we get a new telephone number. It takes some time to learn because we can't stop thinking of the number we had before.

You can also forget something because you want to forget it, perhaps because it is a bad memory. Sometimes a smell, a sound, a taste or a word makes you suddenly think of it again. This has happened to me.

The other day I was out shopping with my wife and children. We were in the supermarket when I heard my name. I turned round and looked into the face of a man. He seemed familiar, although older and greyer than I expected. Maybe it was someone I hadn't seen for a long time. From work? An old friend? A neighbour? I was annoyed with myself. Who was it? I had completely forgotten. The man smiled. 'You don't remember me, do you, Shorty?' That's when I remembered.

'Shorty' was what everybody called me at school. I was the short boy who nobody ever wanted on their basketball team. At the time, it seemed like the most important thing in the world. I used to spend hours of my spare time trying hard to get balls in baskets. Finally, I gave up and took up tennis.

I hadn't thought about those days for years. I hadn't wanted to remember them. It had not been a pleasant feeling to know I wasn't as good as everybody else. I said hello to this person from my past, and walked away as soon as I could. The curious thing was I was taller than him now.

1 To be able to learn new things we must forget some of the old ones. ___

2 Memories sometimes come back when you, for example, hear something ___

3 The writer knew the man wasn't a complete stranger. ___

4 The man wasn't behaving in a friendly way. ___

5 The writer didn't play basketball while at school. . ___

6 6 The writer couldn't remember why they used to call him 'Shorty'. ___

7 The writer didn't feel pleased but greeted the stranger. ___

8. The writer felt pleased and said hello to the man ___

2. Read what six people A–F said about the future of farming. Match the statements 1–4 with the correct speakers. There are two extra speeches.

A If you ask me, farmers have always had a difficult job. I mean they have to deal with bad weather and disease on their farms. I can't see that changing at all in the future.

B I'm not at all keen on this new idea of genetically-modified crops. I think it could be very dangerous. But I'm afraid that's where the future of farming lies.

C Years ago, farmers didn't have the big machines that they have today. They used smaller tools and did a lot of the work by hand. I think farming is much less hard work now, and will be even easier in the future.

D It seems to me that farmers will have to change what they do at present in a big way. They won't be able to make a living for themselves and their children just from farming, and some of them will have to find other ways to earn money.

E I think technology will have a big effect on farming. Technology is always developing and improving and that could mean the types of farm we have will be very different in the future.

F The numbers of people involved in farming will decrease. You see, I think that the profession is under great pressure to change, and that will have an effect on village life.

This person thinks that …

1. farmers have a much better life nowadays. ___

2. farming alone will not earn enough to support a family. ___

3. farming will be no easier than it was before. ___

4. there will be fewer farmers in the future. ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS