UNIT 5: Skills Test

Listening

Task 1A: You are going to listen to six conversations. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear.

1 You will hear two friends talking about a talent show they saw on TV. They agree that
A the quality of the acts was high.
B there were too many singers on the show.
C the decisions about the competitors were unfair.

2 You will hear a boy talking to his friend about piano lessons. He thinks that his new teacher
A talks too much.
B tells good stories.
C explains things clearly.

3 You will hear a girl talking to her friend about an acting course she's doing. How does the girl feel about it?
A pleased with her progress
B worried about the other students
C surprised by the activities they do

4 You will hear two friends talking about a music video they have both watched. The boy thinks that
A the video lasts too long.
B the sound quality is poor.
C the song is boring.

5 You will hear two friends talking about a film they've just seen. They agree that
A the action was exciting.
B the music was excellent.
C the acting was very good.

6 You will hear two friends talking about their school play. The boy suggests that the girl should
A practise more at home.
B write her lines down to remember them.
C watch videos about how to act.

Task 1B: You are going to listen to six conversations. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear.

1 You will hear two friends talking about a talent show they saw on TV. They agree that
A there weren't enough good dancers.
B The comments about the acts were cruel.
C the competitors were all very good.

2 You will hear a boy talking to his friend about piano lessons. He thinks that his new teacher
A talks about interesting things.
B doesn't say a lot.
C isn't good at explaining things.

3 You will hear a girl talking to her friend about an acting course she's doing. How does the girl feel about it?
A amazed by the things they do in class
B happy with how well she's doing
C disappointed with her classmates

4 You will hear two friends talking about a music video they have both watched. The girls thinks that
A there's a problem with it which need fixing.
B the music should be more interesting.
C it should be much shorter.

5 You will hear two friends talking about a film they've just seen. They agree that
A the stars in the lead roles were great.
B there were many exciting scenes.
C it had really good music.

6 You will hear two friends talking about their school play. The boy suggests that the girl should
A prepare by performing in her house.
B learn more about acting on the internet.
C note down what she needs to say a few times.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading

Task 1A: Read the article and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Becoming a celebrity

Some people work for years to become a celebrity, only to find that fame wasn't as great as they expected. It's not that they dislike it exactly, they just realise that there is more to life than being famous.

Formed in 2005, *The Jonas Brothers* quickly became world-famous. Their albums sold in millions and they played to thousands of fans. But Kevin, one of three brothers in the band, suddenly decided he'd had enough. But why? Had he fought with his brothers? Or found something better? Actually, he felt the group were no longer making music he wanted to listen to, so he left. He created a restaurant-searching app called *Yood* shortly after quitting, and he's a dad too these days. He'll certainly have more time for his children now he's not touring and recording!

Freddie Prinze Junior became famous after appearing in well-known Hollywood films such as *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. Recently, however, he decided to stop acting to follow another of his passions: cooking. He grew up seeing his mum creating amazing dishes for the family – she's worked in restaurants all her life – and has been trying to cook as well as her ever since. He hasn't launched a career as a celebrity television chef yet, but he's written a book containing seventy-five of his favourite recipes.

When rapper Vanilla Ice released *Ice Ice Baby* in 1990, it became a huge hit. Although he still makes music, he's never been able to repeat this success, at least musically. Ice bought his first house long before recording *Ice Ice Baby*. He was only seventeen, but even back then realised he could make money by buying and selling property. So that's what he did after his musical success disappeared. He also started racing jet-skis (a small vehicle you sit on that travels fast across water), and became one of the best jet-skiers in the world.

Research suggests that wanting to be famous comes from a basic human need to be part of a group. This makes us want other people to like us. As these celebrities perhaps demonstrate, achieving fame doesn't always meet this need and looking for other things in life is actually more likely to give us what we want.

11 In the first paragraph, the writer says that
A it always takes a long time to become a celebrity.
B some celebrities think fame will be better than it is.
C some celebrities hate being famous.
D there are too many celebrities these days.

12 Why did Kevin Jonas decide to leave his band?
A He wanted to have children.
B He wanted to try a different career.
C He argued with the other members.
D He disliked the music they were playing.

13 Freddie Prinze Junior developed his love of cooking
A by working in a restaurant.
B by reading a cook book.
C by watching someone cook.
D by seeing a famous chef on TV.

14 Vanilla Ice found out about buying and selling houses
A when he was a teenager.
B after he became famous.
C in the last few years.
D when his music career ended.

15 In the final paragraph, the writer says that the wish to be famous
A is more powerful than the wish to be normal.
B comes from wanting to be popular.
C never makes you happy.
D doesn't affect all people in the same way.

16 What is the author of the article focusing on?
A The stars who turn their backs on fame.
B The negative side of being famous.
C The difficult road to becoming a celebrity.
D The people who end up being famous by accident.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 1B: Read the article and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Becoming famous

Many people would give almost anything to be famous. Some work for years to achieve their dream only to find that it wasn't as great an experience as they'd hoped. It's not that they hate being famous. They just realise that other things might make them happier.

Amanda Bynes became famous as the young girl with the positive attitude in several TV series and then in films such as *She's The Man*. Although the parts she was getting became increasingly interesting, working in the profession was becoming very hard to manage and, with the support of her parents, decided to move into the fashion industry. She's now a successful designer and has also completed a course at fashion school.

Another child actor who decided on a sudden change of direction is Frankie Muniz. He'd had an interest in motor racing since watching it on TV as a child and announced, when he was at his most famous, that he was giving up his highly successful acting career to become a professional racing driver. Unlike many boys who start doing the sport after watching their mum or dad racing, Frankie had to wait until someone asked him to take part in a celebrity race while he was still acting before he took racing seriously. He was so good, he got a contract with a racing team soon after and the acting had to go. One of the few acting roles he's played since was that of a racing driver.

Mara Wilson became a child star overnight after playing *Matilda*, a girl with magical superpowers, in the film of the same name. Despite the fame and admiration, for as long as she can remember, Mara had dreamt of following a different career. She decided to turn her back on fame to achieve her ambition of becoming a writer. Her first play was performed in 2013 and a book soon followed in 2016. Since quitting acting and taking up writing, she's also become involved with several charity projects which support mental health.

Studies suggest that trying to become well-known comes from a powerful human desire in many of us to be accepted by others, especially strangers. However, as these former celebrities show, sometimes having fame doesn't always give people the feeling they're looking for.

11 In the first paragraph, the writer says that
A some celebrities become famous quickly.
B there are too many celebrities these days.
C many celebrities strongly dislike being famous.
D some people find fame disappointing

12 Why did Amanda Bynes decide to stop acting?
A The roles she was offered were boring.
B She wanted to study something.
C It was difficult to continue her career.
D Her family told her to.

13 Frankie Muniz's motor racing career started after
A being invited to drive in a motor race.
B playing the part of a racing driver in a film.
C watching a programme about a racing driver.
D taking part in a race with a family member.

14 When did Mara Wilson first want to become a writer?
A as soon as she stopped acting
B since she was very young
C while working for charity
D after the success of Matilda.

15 In the final paragraph, the writer says that
A a normal life is always more satisfying than fame
B no one knows why people like being admired.
C wanting to be famous is very common.
D fame affects people in the same way.

16 What would be a good title for the article?
A The stars who loved fame too much.
B The celebrities who have had enough of fame.
C The dangers of being a young celebrity.
D The people who never wanted to be famous.

LIVEWORKSHEETS