READING

1 Read the article about the spread of fake news. Five sentences have been removed. Which sentence (A–F) fits each gap (1–5)? There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Why fake is faster

In 2018, a study published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology revealed that fake news travels faster and reaches more people than genuine news. The research team had decided to do the study in the early 2000s when many people were beginning to use social media as their main source of news. The official study started in 2006. (_____) Each of the stories was carefully checked to determine whether it contained fake or genuine news.

When the results of the study were published in the journal, *Science*, they showed several shocking facts. Firstly, they found that people were 70% more likely to share or re-post false news stories than true ones. In fact, real news stories were rarely shared further than 1,000 people, while the most popular fake news stories could reach up to 100,000. Secondly, the results showed that real news stories took around six times longer to reach readers than fake ones. (_____) Other fast-spreading topics included celebrity news, urban legends, science, terrorism, and natural disasters.

The research also corrects a common media myth. There is a widespread belief that automated 'bots' are responsible for spreading most of the fake news on social media. (_____) The researchers had analysed the accounts they identified as bots and found that although they did spread fake news, they also shared true news at the same rate. This means they were not responsible for the speed and spread of fake news.

But why are people more likely to share fake news? One theory is that it could be because fake news tends to be more attractive to readers and is therefore more likely to get a reaction from people. In this age of social media, we are exposed to news 24/7 so we tend to almost switch off and stop listening to it unless it is really shocking or unexpected. (_____) It could be that people who post fake news want that power – regardless of whether the news they are spreading is true or not. The excitement attached to posting fake news and watching it go viral could be addictive.

Psychologists have also compared the rapid spread of fake news with the more traditional habit of gossiping. It is human nature to share news and gossip about each other. The best gossip is full of dramatic detail. It has to be surprising at the very least, even shocking. Once people start sharing that fake news on social media, the last thing they, or their readers, are worried about is whether it is accurate or not.

While fake news may be a source of entertainment for some, real news is genuinely important to society. According to journalists, a problem which is caused by fake news is that people don't believe anything anymore. So, what can genuine news agencies do about fake news? Traditionally, newspapers competed to be the first to publish a good story. Media experts have said it is now more important than ever to publish news which is correct and accurate. (_____) The priority now must be to remain honest and make sure the content of their story is 100% accurate before they publish it.

A However, the findings of the study suggest that it is in fact humans that are most likely to share fake news.

B They say that journalists should not try to compete with the speed of social media as it is a battle they can't win.

C When they looked at news content on several popular social media sites, they realized that a large proportion of the so-called 'news' stories seemed to be based on rumours, were incorrect, or had key facts missing.

D During the study, the team followed the spread of 126,000 stories shared by three million people on social media over a period of eleven years.

E Of the types of fake news available online, the most common subject matter was politics.

F There is a position of power associated with being the person who shares news that others have not heard before.

GRAMMAR

2 Underline the correct word(s).

Example: Katya offered **lending** / **to lend** me her bicycle when mine was being repaired.

1 Felipe convinced me **not to give up** / **not giving up** playing rugby.
2 I'm so glad Mariana encouraged **me to try** / **that I try** that new hairdresser's!
3 I suggested **to buy** / **buying** Ella some flowers, but Jasmin said she'd prefer chocolates.
4 The blackmailer threatened **to post** / **posting** copies of my private emails online.
5 Benjamin regretted **not asking** / **to not ask** how much the hotel was before he booked it.
6 Renata insisted **to pay** / **on paying** for our meal.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verb in brackets.

Example: Nobody *has been told* (tell) the date of the trial yet.

1 Drivers shouldn't _____ (fine) for parking ten minutes longer than they've paid for.
2 Fish and chips used to _____ (wrap) in old newspapers.
3 The couple _____ (think) to have escaped to Europe with the money.
4 Real Madrid refused _____ (beat) and ended up winning the match.
5 That restaurant _____ (say) to be one of the best in the world.
6 It's difficult to avoid _____ (follow) by paparazzi when you're famous.
7 I saw Marie in the art exhibition. She _____ (show) around by one of the artists.
8 The community centre is closed this week – it _____ (redecorate).

4 Rewrite the sentences using *have something done*.

1 A dentist is going to take out my bad tooth tomorrow

2 A mechanic should check the car before you buy it.

3 Will the painter pain your kitchen exactly the same colour?

4 They decided to get an expert to value the jewellery

5 He took a photo of me in front of the Eiffel Tower.

6 They are installing our new solar panels in two weeks.

5 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one. DO NOT change the word given

1 'It was David who put butter on the door handle!', said Alex. ACCUSED
Alex_____ on the door handle.

2 'You should employ a secretary, Paul,' advised his accountant. SUGGESTED

Paul's accountant_____ secretary.

3 'It was Zack's fault that the chair broke,' said Alice. BLAMED

Alice _____ the chair.

4 'I will pay for the meal,' said Peter. INSISTED

Peter _____ for the meal.

5 police caught the burglar immediately. WAS

The burglar_____ the police

6 Emma's social account was hacked. HAD

Emma_____ hacked.

7 People think the murderer is a woman. THOUGHT

The murderer_____ a woman

8 The police say the murderer has disappeared. IS

It _____ disappeared.

9 Police believe the robbers entered through a window. BELIEVED

The robbers _____ through a window.

10 It is thought that the government built new schools. TO

The government _____ new schools.

VOCABULARY

6 Complete the words in the sentences.

Example: After being **q**_uestioned_ by police for several hours, the woman confessed to the crime.

1 Both women were **a**_____ because of a lack of reliable evidence.
2 The **j**_____ gave the woman a shorter sentence because she had pleaded guilty.
3 The politician was **b**_____ by a colleague who knew some of his guilty secrets.
4 The police couldn't charge the men because there were no **w**_____ to say what they'd seen.
5 Cigarettes are often **s**_____ into the UK because the tax is so high on them there.
6 Both men were found **g**_____ and sentenced to five years in prison.
7 A man has been charged with **s**_____ after following Miss Jones everywhere for months.
8 The **p**_____ for murder is usually a life sentence.
9 The man had **c**_____ several previous crimes for which he was also charged.
10 The **v**_____ of the jury was that Mr Martin was guilty of all charges.

7 Complete the sentences with the correct word.

newsreader	biased	sensational	commentator	freelance
gossip	vows	agony aunt	censored	~~paparazzi~~ reviews

Example: Celebrities must get so fed up of _paparazzi_ trying to photograph them all the time.

1 This show has been given very favourable _____ by critics. Shall we get tickets for it?
2 The _____ on the football final screamed with joy when his former team mate scored the winning goal.
3 Government _____ to reduce air pollution before next election.
4 John doesn't work for one single newspaper. He's a _____ photographer.
5 Lena is an _____. She writes answers to people's letters in the local paper and gives them advice.
6 This journalist always uses such strong language in his news stories – it's too _____ for me.
7 I read that magazine for all the celebrity _____ – it's fun but I know it's not all true!
8 The internet isn't _____ so it's easier to spread fake news on it.
9 I loved it when that very serious _____ couldn't stop laughing as he read one story!
10 That news report isn't at all objective – it's very _____ actually.

LISTENING

8 Listen to five newsreaders reporting news about crime. Which situation does each newsreader describe? Choose from the list (A–F). Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

A The suspect is not yet known.
B There is proof that the suspect is guilty.
C The suspect escaped.
D The suspect was arrested.
E The suspect has been sentenced.
F The suspect was acquitted.

Speaker 1: [ ]
Speaker 2: [ ]
Speaker 3: [ ]
Speaker 4: [ ]
Speaker 5: [ ]

WRITING

9   Answer the following questions

1 Why do you think some people believe fake news?

2 Does your family prefer reading news online or buying newspapers? Why? What about you?