Task 1

Read the article. For questions 9–14, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

9 In the first paragraph, the writer suggests that

A we no longer expect transparency from businesses and governments.

B consumers are more easily fooled than they were in the past.

C companies and politicians only lie when it is beneficial to them.

D large corporations are using increasingly complex methods of deception.

10 What point is the writer making in paragraph 2?

A Society has been negatively affected by humans' ability to lie.

B The ability to lie may have ensured the survival of early humans.

C Most violent conflicts have been the result of lies and dishonesty.

D The birth of language was the result of our desire to lie.

11 In the third paragraph, the writer mentions the example of a mother lying to her son to

A illustrate that lies are not always told for selfish reasons.

B show how easy it is for us to lie to people who are close to us.

C demonstrate how manipulative our parents can be.

D explain why lying can be extremely hurtful to those around us.

12 According to the writer, why do some philosophers consider lying to be morally unacceptable?

A It generally leads people to physical harm.

B It contradicts the laws set out in religious texts.

C It deprives people of their right to know the truth.

D It undermines attempts to create an honest society.

13 What problem does the writer discuss in the fifth paragraph?

A The reluctance of philosophers to discuss the issue of lying.

B The difficulty philosophers face in defining when it is acceptable to lie.

C The way in which lies can result in injury or distress.

D The fact that people tend to reject the guidance provided by philosophers.

14 In the final paragraph, the writer suggests that

A people who lie are only thinking about themselves.

B the feelings of the person being lied to are irrelevant.

C individuals tend not to think about the consequences of their actions.

D it is up to us to decide whether our actions are appropriate.

Task 2

Read the text again and answer the following questions.

15 What expression in the first paragraph means 'to change the form of'?

16 In your own words, explain 'at large'. (line 24)

17 What does 'that' refer to in line 59?

18 What does 'on the spur of the moment'? (line 77)

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

What's wrong with lying?

Many people think we're now living in a post-truth era, where politicians, big businesses and the media are engaged in campaigns to bend and twist the truth to their own advantage. We have witnessed political leaders being somewhat economical with the truth about their actions, while some tech firms have been less than transparent about what really happens to users' information. It seems that the more aware we become of attempts to deceive us, the more sophisticated are their efforts to fool us into buying a service, product or story.

People have always lied, of course, and some argue that we may have been doing so since the birth of language itself. According to them, the first lies would have been told by primitive people in order to avoid sharing food

fighting over a piece of meat, which can be dangerous and energy-consuming, why not simply hide the meat and pretend you know nothing about it? In this respect, it would seem that lying may have evolved as a means of self-preservation. It could even be argued that without such dishonesty, there would have been far more violent conflicts, which would have affected society at large.

As more complex language evolved, the possibilities for creating falsehoods would have increased. Lying became a useful tool for manipulating others to see the world as we wanted them to see it. Nevertheless, it has not always been used with evil ends in mind, and many of us will be familiar with situations where telling the truth seems more hurtful than telling a

lie. A classic example is the mother who tells her son how wonderful his piano-playing is despite it being excruciating to listen to. If she were to tell the truth, she might risk destroying his confidence and put him off playing the piano ever again. In this scenario, the deception brings no clear benefit to the deceiver other than, perhaps, ensuring that their fellow beings are kept happy.

Although lying is not always used to manipulate others for our own ends, it tends to be regarded as something which is morally unacceptable. This view is reflected in everything from religious texts, to national laws to popular culture, where stories such as Pinocchio, whose nose grows every time he tells a lie, remind us that lying is wrong. Some philosophers have also come to the same conclusion, arguing that lying can be harmful in distinct ways. At best, it denies the person being lied to the chance to make an informed decision about a situation and, at worst, it can lead to them being physically harmed. Others have argued that truth is at the heart of our existence and without it we are unable to make sense of the world around us. If nobody told the truth, nothing would make sense and society would be incapable of functioning.

However, as we have seen, it would appear that being creative with the truth may be justifiable in some situations, especially if it is intended to avoid causing injury or distress. If that is the case, where should the lines be drawn? How can we be sure that we are acting for the greater good? This is a moral dilemma which philosophers and other commentators have been grappling with for centuries. Many of them have been unable to provide a workable solution because there are an infinite number of possible scenarios. Nevertheless, it is clear that a blanket statement such as 'do not lie' provides little in the way of practical moral guidance.

It would seem that the only way we can really decide whether a lie is acceptable is by examining our own consciences and weighing up the pros and cons

of holding back on the truth. There are, of course, problems with this, because our consciences are really just a reflection of our own beliefs and not do not necessarily reflect those of the person being lied to. How can we be sure that they would not feel hurt if they knew they had been lied to? This can be especially difficult when you have to make a decision on the spur of the moment and you have little time to evaluate the consequences of your actions. Nevertheless, it would seem that this is the only means at our disposal for making sure our lies do not cause more harm than good.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR

Task 1

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1 This is a very good sales pitch; I think you ..... (get) it spot on.

2 No one is ..... (discuss) the script until it has been approved.

3 If the show ..... (delay), we'd be home now.

4 Lecturers ..... (campaign) for equal pay for over a month.

5 The summer sales ..... (finish) by this time next week.

6 If they had taken into account customers' purchasing power, they ..... (produce) such pricy products.

7 Perhaps I ought ..... (know) that the price of oil would fall.

8 This time next month we ..... (run) our own business.

9 We ..... (have) these issues, if you had listened in the first place.

VOCABULARY

Task 1

Read the sentences and complete the gaps with one word only.

crowd - soft - value - far - knock-down
value - image - lengths - telling

13 Although she is very famous, Ann is a ..... cry from your typical celebrity.

14 Kaia is the spitting ..... of her supermodel mum.

15 As an entrepreneur, one of the biggest challenges I face is how to stand out from the .....

16 Unfortunately, the entire stock is going under the hammer at the next auction at a ..... price.

17 There's a difference between being generous and being a ..... touch; the latter is easy prey.

18 She is selling everything apart from a few items that hold sentimental .....

19 In some countries, people are very hospitable and go to great ..... to look after their guests.

20 The way he treated me was shocking; I thought I ..... him through and through.

21 He thought he could get away with ..... such a whopper but he was caught out in the end.

Task 2

Complete the second sentence so that that is has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between three and six words.

10 People who copy our products have been banned by the company.

IMPOSED

The company ..... people who copy our products.

11 He intended to say that the project could not be saved.

MEANT

What ..... the project could not be saved.

12 It seems that it was the lack of funds that forced the company to abandon its new marketing strategy.

WHAT

Owing ..... lack of funds, the company had to abandon its new marketing strategy.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 1

Read the text and complete the gaps with one word only.

When did it all start?

Back in my grandparents' days, it was assumed that the key factor in marketing a product was **(28)** _____ quality; everything was made to be durable. And just **(29)** _____ all other consumers at that time, my grandparents valued this and, believe it or **(30)** _____, they still own the same kitchen appliances they bought nearly forty years ago.

But fast forward forty years, **(31)** _____ have changed and marketing has almost **(32)** _____ to do with the product. It is the customer **(33)** _____ has become the driving force **(34)** _____ all business strategies. Technological developments and economic growth have played a vital role in transforming all aspects of **(35)** _____ lives including industries. The irony of it **(36)** _____ is that the goal of manufacturers is not to make something that lasts for years to come and this is **(37)** _____ business is today.

Task 2

Read the article and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Mystery of Moriarty

We are inviting you to join us for a walk through the streets of London in order to solve a trail of clues left by Professor Moriarty. This **(38)** _____ experience is inspired by the popular Sherlock Holmes novels; one of fiction's most beloved characters. While **(39)** _____ the criminal mastermind, Professor Moriarty, you will experience **(40)** _____ dangers. Be prepared to get yourself into **(41)** _____ by wearing a hat, coat and other Sherlock costumes. You may get **(42)** _____ in a murder case or be gathering intelligence to find a missing person. Whatever the mission is, you should try to **(43)** _____ it with Dr Watson's help. The whole thing looks **(44)** _____ simple but is quite complex in practice, so when you are **(45)** _____ a situation, think about multiple ways it could **(46)** _____ in the end.

You will need about 3–4 hours. It will start with a **(47)** _____ at the venue. All you need is to get a group of your friends together and show up at the venue.

38	**A** candid	**B** authentic	**C** unsettling	**D** immersive
39	**A** tracking down	**B** bringing in	**C** covering up	**D** holding up
40	**A** undeniable	**B** unreasonable	**C** unrealistic	**D** unimaginable
41	**A** character	**B** disguise	**C** deception	**D** fantasy
42	**A** captured out	**B** caught up	**C** held up	**D** embarked upon
43	**A** stay away from	**B** come up to	**C** get out of	**D** watch out for
44	**A** deceptively	**B** obviously	**C** actually	**D** visibly
45	**A** confronted with	**B** brought in	**C** taken in	**D** put out
46	**A** come up	**B** make out	**C** turn out	**D** give in
47	**A** background	**B** briefing	**C** discussion	**D** narration

LIVEWORKSHEETS