SECTION A: Reading Comprehension

Read the text and circle the correct option, true (T) or false (F).

Around the world

They said he couldn't do it, but early this morning, the American adventurer Steve Fossett finally got out of his helium-filled balloon in Queensland, 700 miles north of Sydney. After six attempts, Steve Fossett has become the first person to fly solo round the world. The journey, of more than 20,000 miles, took him just under fifteen days, although he had a few problems on the way and he almost cancelled the attempt.

Steve took off from Northam in Western Australia on June 19th. He had to postpone his departure for three hours because of a problem with wind, but he finally left, flying past Sydney and New Zealand before starting the long journey over the Pacific to Santiago in Chile. At a news conference, Steve said, 'I had some exciting moments.' At one point, there was a small fire in the balloon. But compared to his earlier attempts, this was a small problem. The difficulties were solved and Steve was able to continue with his epic journey.

Steve now plans to stop ballooning, but he has other interesting hobbies. In 1985, he swam across the Channel between England and France. He took part in the Alaska Dog Race in 1992, and in 1996 he raced in the 24-hour Classic at Le Mans in France. He has the Round the World record for small aeroplanes – in both directions – and in 2001, he sailed across the Atlantic in four days seventeen hours, beating the previous record. He holds another eight world records for speed sailing.

His latest interest is gliding. He already has the world records for 500 and 1000 kilometres. What next? Well, his next project is to fly a glider to the edge of space. It sounds crazy, but adventure is a way of life for this extraordinary, quiet man.

(Adapted from Tapescript 12A in Straightforward Pre-Intermediate, Macmillan, 2005)

1) Steve Fossett started his journey this morning. T / F
2) This was not the first time Steve had tried to fly. T / F
3) Steve had planned to start the journey three hours earlier. T / F
4) Steve is only interested in ballooning. T / F
5) In 2001, Steve swam across the ocean. T / F

SECTION B: Language in Use

I - Choose the word that best fits the blank.

Not long ago, children used 1) ___ their free time in a completely different way. The use of televisions in bedrooms has become very common 2) ___ their prices went down. Indeed, it is much 3) ___ to access a TV set than it was in the past. Everyone knows the result of this: young people's reading skills are not as good 4)___ their teachers expect because they are reading less and less. 5) ___, 57% of children who took part in a survey last year said that they still enjoy 6) ___. Recently, researchers have also reported some other disturbing results. They say that it is becoming strange for children over the age of 10 to watch television with their parents. If they are alone in their rooms, children 7) ___ watching television for hours, at times even late into the night. Because of this, children's viewing 8) ___ by their parents now. One father 9) ___ the researchers that he had set rules when his children were still very young. For example, he let his children watch TV just one hour a day. In this way, he could control 10) ___ television they watched.

(Adapted from http://curriculum.gov.mt/en/Examination-Papers/Secondary-Papers/2010/Documents/sec_2010/t3_english_f3_2010.pdf)

1		a) spend	b) spending	c) to spend
2		a) because	b) for	c) from
3		a) easiest	b) easier	c) easily
4		a) as	b) than	c) that
5		a) Although	b) However	c) But
6		a) read	b) reads	c) reading
7		a) will stay up	b) would stay up	c) are staying up
8		a) does not control	b) is not controlled	c) was not controlled
9		a) said	b) asked	c) told
10		a) how	b) how many	c) how much

LIVEWORKSHEETS

II - Read the passage below and put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.



The image of Albert Einstein sticking out his tongue is probably one of the most memorable photos. For decades, it 1) (be) _____ on the walls of middle-school science classrooms. Last year, the original copy 2) (sell) _____ by an auction house from Los Angeles for $125,000. Photographer Arthur Sasse took the photo in 1951, while the physicist 3) (return) _____ from Princeton University. Einstein 4) (celebrate) _____ his 72nd birthday there. When the photographer asked him to smile for the camera, Einstein was exhausted. Sasse insisted because he had 5) (take) _____ the photo for the news agency. Einstein finally agreed, but stuck out his tongue. The photo became a cultural icon!

III - Complete the dialogue. Use the word(s) in brackets.

Larry gets home and meets his mother.

Larry: Hi mum! How are you?
Mum: I'm OK, and you?
Larry: I'm very tired. 1) _____ ? **(COULD)**
Mum: No, I'm sorry. It was impossible to make the cake because I 2) _____ **(ENOUGH)**
Larry: How strange... Today's Tuesday and dad always goes to the market on Mondays, 3) _____ ? **(HE)**
Mum: Yes, he told 4) _____ yesterday, but then he had no time. **(WOULD)**
Larry: Why not?
Mum: Because first he took the car to Johnny, the mechanic, and he finished late at night.
Larry: Did he?
Mum: Yeah... Johnny doesn't work as 5) _____ he did. **(FAST)**

LIVEWORKSHEETS