

**READING****1 Read about favourite toys and games. Tick (✓) A, B, or C.****Shriyan**

When I was growing up my favourite toy was my bike. Luckily, because of where I lived and because my parents let me have a lot of freedom, I could ride it a lot. I remember coming home from school and going out on my bike to the park, or just around the streets. Now I'm a parent myself, and I worry that children can't play outside in the same way I used to. There is so much more traffic — it just isn't safe for them to cycle by themselves. I decided to start a 'Playing Out' session in my street. We close the road for three hours once each fortnight. Then the children can play in the road, like I used to. They ride bikes, they skip, they draw on the road with chalk. It's amazing. Some local residents weren't sure about it at first, but now they can clearly see the benefits. Even people who don't have children come into the street and join in. 'Playing Out' is quite difficult to organize because you need permission from local government to close the road, and you need at least four adults to be responsible for the children, but it's definitely worth the trouble.

**Alison**

You could always tell I was going to be an engineer. I loved construction bricks, even when I was very small. That's one of the best things about the toy, of course. It doesn't matter if you've got tiny hands, you can still build a castle, or a car, or a robot ... and then you can make something completely different with the same pieces. Some boxes of bricks come with a set of instructions to help you build a particular plane or building. I used to build that once, and then all the pieces went into a big plastic tub in my bedroom. I spent many hours building my own creations. I think construction bricks have changed since I was little. There are more specialized pieces, like different wheels and connectors. And I really don't think there should be 'pinkified' boxes of bricks 'for girls', where the colours are different and the specialized pieces are flowers and pets. They should be banned!

**Frank**

I'm the youngest child in my family. Perhaps I'm a little bit bossy and a little bit spoilt. Anyway my favourite games always involved telling people what to do! I used to make my parents and my older sisters hide my soft toys around the house. I used to pretend the toys were in trouble and my sisters were the 'baddies'. Then I'd dress up as a superhero and run around rescuing them. Or, if my family were busy, I would play hospitals with the soft toys. I was the doctor, of course, and the soft animals used to have lots of injuries and illnesses. I used to put bandages on them and put them in bed. I really loved those toys and I even took one special bear with me to university.

Example: When he was young, Shriyan regularly rode his bike without his parents.

A True  B False  C Doesn't say

- 1 Shriyan was worried about his children's weight before he started the 'Playing out' sessions.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 2 People in Shriyan's street have got used to the 'Playing Out' sessions.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 3 Shriyan didn't have to ask permission to close the road.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 4 Shriyan doesn't look after the children by himself during the sessions.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 5 Alison thinks even very young children can use construction bricks.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 6 Alison didn't use to build anything using the instructions.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 7 Alison doesn't think boxes of bricks should have so many specialized pieces.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 8 Frank used to make his sisters play with him.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 9 Frank's parents knew he was going to be a doctor when he grew up.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say
- 10 Frank's games show that he was an imaginative and caring child.  
A True  B False  C Doesn't say

10

## 2 Write S for Shriyan, A for Alison, F for Frank.

Example: My family used to hide my toys so I could 'rescue' them. F

- 1 I don't think there should be a girls' version of my favourite toy. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 I think children have less independence these days. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I used to pretend my toys were my patients. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 My favourite toy matches my choice of job. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 I worked hard so my children can play the games I used to play. \_\_\_\_\_

5

Reading total  15

**WRITING**

**Write about a favourite toy or game from your childhood (100–150 words).**

**Answer the questions:**

- What did the toy/game look like?
- How did you play with the toy? / How did you play the game?
- Why did you like it?
- Where did you use to play with it?
- Would you give a toy/game like this as a gift to a child today? Why?/Why not?

Writing total	10
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Reading and Writing total	25
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## LISTENING

**1 Listen to an interview and complete the sentences. Write two words only.**

- 1 According to Maxim, amateur musicians spend \_\_\_\_\_ preparing for each concert than professional musicians.
- 2 Maxim compares being a classical musician and being a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Maxim \_\_\_\_\_ the stereotype suggested by the interviewer.
- 4 In the 1980s, orchestras made some changes to reduce \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Since the introduction of 'blind auditions', Maxim says some musicians have bought \_\_\_\_\_ to help them in auditions.

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**2 Listen to five conversations. Tick (✓) A, B, or C.**

- 1 Annalise is pleased with the price of \_\_\_\_\_ in the shop.  
A bags of salad  B frozen vegetables  C fresh fruit
- 2 Latif tried to cut down on \_\_\_\_\_.  
A food miles  B meat  C dairy products
- 3 Ruby can't come to the restaurant because she \_\_\_\_\_.  
A can't afford it  B has a football match  C has to work
- 4 Karen saved £50 each week by cutting out \_\_\_\_\_.  
A bottled water  B take-away  C café lunches at work
- 5 Inge and Wes disagree about \_\_\_\_\_.  
A food websites  B shopping lists  C where to shop

5

Listening total 10

## SPEAKING

**1 Make questions and ask your partner.**

- 1 How long / take you / get here today?
- 2 Which company would / most like / be an investor in? Why?
- 3 What new skill would / like to learn?
- 4 What / favourite food / from another country?
- 5 Who / usually / eat out with? Where / go?
- 6 What food / use to hate / when / a child?
- 7 What / least favourite sport activity? Why?
- 8 Would / cycle / work / in the rain? Why? Why not?
- 9 Do / kiss family members / when / say goodbye?
- 10 Who / tidyest or most organized person / know? Why?

**Now answer your partner's questions.**

2 Talk about one of the statements below, saying if you agree or disagree.  
Give reasons.

'Mobile phone reception should be blocked in all schools.'  
'Top sports stars earn too much money.'  
'Families should eat one meal together each day.'

3 Listen to your partner talking about a statement. Do you agree with him / her?

Speaking total	15
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Listening and Speaking total	25
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