Task 1

Read the text below. For assignments (1–5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).

A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN

I was on holiday in Scotland, and I was staying at Fernie Castle Hotel, which used to be just Fernie Castle when it was built about 600 years ago. I was staying in a small room up in the West Tower, and I went to bed after a good meal. I was just falling asleep when I heard someone knocking at the door. So I got up, put the light on and went to the door, but there was no one there. So I went back to bed and decided it must have been a dream or my imagination. I was just falling asleep again when I heard someone knocking again — a very light tapping, not a loud knock. I got up, put the light on, went to the door and there was nobody there. I wasn't scared but it's a bit worrying when you're staying by yourself in a very old castle. I locked the door and went back to bed but I left the light on, and nothing else happened; I slept until morning.

The next night I went to bed and there was no knocking at the door, but in the middle of the night I woke up for some reason and saw a woman standing in the room. She was wearing a green dress with a high neck and she was looking at me, but when I switched on the light she disappeared, she wasn't there. And by this time I was really very worried and I stayed awake for the rest of the night.

When I went down to breakfast I said to the owner of the hotel that I had seen a woman in my room the night before. He asked, 'Was she wearing a high-necked green dress?' and I said, 'Yes, she was.'

The man said, 'Many people saw this woman but I never did. She was a bride of a man who was running away with her to get married. Her father did not want her to marry this man. They escaped to Fernie Castle and hid in a tiny room at the top of the West Tower. Her father's men eventually tracked them down and there was a terrible struggle, and somehow while she was trying to escape she fell out of the window to her death on the stone courtyard below. And now her ghost haunts the West Tower and occasionally appears in people's bedroom with a sad expression, never saying anything. And that's probably what you saw. Either that or you had too much champagne the night before.'

1. I was staying in a … up in the West Tower, and I went to bed after a good meal.
   A small kitchen **B** large room
   C small room **D** one-bedroom flat
2. I was just falling asleep when I heard someone ….
   A knocking at the door **B** singing
   C playing the violin **D** crying
3. I got up, put the light on, went to the door and there was … there.
   A a waiter **B** nobody
   C a young girl **D** a ghost
4. When I went down to breakfast I said to the owner of the hotel that I had seen … in my room the night before.
   A a monkey **B** a child
   C a woman **D** a cat
5. And by this time I was really very … and I stayed awake for the rest of the night.
   A worried **B** scared
   C happy **D** sad

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 2

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (6–10). There are three choices you do not need to use.

A NEW GENERATION OF ANTIBIOTIC DRUGS

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Insects entombed in fossilized amber for tens of millions of years have provided the key to creating a new generation of antibiotic drugs that could wage war on modern diseases. Scientists have isolated the antibiotics from microbes found either inside the intestines of the amber-encased insects or in soil particles trapped with them when they were caught by sticky tree resin up to 130 million years ago. Spores of the microbes have survived an unprecedented period of suspended animation, enabling scientists to revive them in the laboratory.

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Research over the past two years has uncovered at least four antibiotics from the microbes and one has been able to kill modern drug-resistant bacteria that can cause potentially deadly diseases in humans. Present-day antibiotics have nearly all been isolated from micro-organisms that use them as a form of defense against their predators or competitors. But since the introduction of antibiotics into medicine 50 years ago, an alarming number have become ineffective because many bacteria have developed resistance to the drugs. The antibiotics that were in use millions of years ago may prove more deadly against drug-resistant modern strains of disease-causing

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Raul Cano, who has pioneered the research at the California Polytechnic State University, said the ancient antibiotics had been successful in fighting drug-resistant strains of staphylococcus bacteria, a 'superbug' that had threatened the health of patients in hospitals across the globe. He now intends to establish whether the antibiotics might have harmful side effects. 'The problem is how toxic they are to other cells and how easy they are to purify', said Cano.

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A biotechnology company, Ambergene, has been set up to develop the antibiotics into drugs. If any ancient microbes are revived that resemble present-day diseases, they will be destroyed in case they escape and cause new epidemics. Drug companies will be anxious to study the chemical structures of the prehistoric antibiotics to see how they differ from modern drugs. They hope that one ancient molecule could be used as a basis to synthesize a range of drugs.

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Cano's findings have been hailed as a break-through by scientists. Edward Golenburg, an expert on extracting DNA from fossilized life-forms at Wayne State University in Detroit, said: 'They appear to be verifiable, ancient spores. They do seem to be real.' Richard Lenski, professor of microbial ecology at Michigan State University, said the fight against antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria such as tuberculosis and staphylococcus could be helped by the discovery. However, even the use of ancient antibiotics may not halt the rise of drug-resistant bacteria. Stuart Levy, a micro-biologist at Tufts University in Boston, warned that the bacteria would eventually evolve to fight back against the new drugs. 'There might also be an enzyme already out that can degrade it. So the only way to keep the life of that antibiotic going is to use it sensibly and not excessively,' he said.

A A reference to the length of time we have been using antibiotic drugs
B The original source of the new drugs being developed
C The location of the studies into the new antibiotic drugs
D The antibiotics have harmful side effects.
E Ancient microbes would be used to synthesize a new generation of modern drugs.
F Examples of other studies similar to Cano's.
G Two examples of bacteria that are no longer killed by modern antibiotic drugs.
H The researchers could not verify ancient spores.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
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7								
8								
9								
10								

LIVEWORKSHEETS