

## Part 3

### Questions 11–15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

#### Ana Ronson

*Singer-songwriter*

Singer-songwriter Ana Ronson grew up in Ireland. Although her parents weren't musicians, there was always music in the house. Her grandfather played the guitar, and taught Ana and her brother to play.

The first time Ana tried singing in front of an audience was at school – she was so nervous that her teacher had to lead her off the stage. This teacher suggested that joining the school theatre club might make her more confident. After attending the club for a while, she happily sang with 50 other students at an end-of-term concert.

A year later, her brother, who was in a band, asked her to write a song for them, and so she wrote her first ever song, *Falling Stars*. Writing it took just three days and she enjoyed it so much that she enrolled on a songwriting course run by a professional songwriter. Despite being the youngest student, she already knew more about music than many of the others. But Ana says the teacher didn't listen to anything she said, and she wrote *Something to Say* about how annoyed this made her feel.

She posted this song online, and it became a huge success. She was delighted when people left comments saying that they loved it and found new meanings in the words each time they heard them. Joss Alton, the owner of a recording company called Isotope Music, flew from his office on the other side of Ireland to ask her to join Isotope. At first she wasn't sure; she didn't know anything about the company, and didn't want someone telling her what to sing. However, Joss persuaded her this wouldn't happen, and a short time later she performed at a concert in Dublin arranged by Isotope. They sold all the tickets very quickly and it was an amazing evening.

Ana says she's less interested in writing songs about when life's good; when it's not, there's more for her to say. One of her favourite songs is *Decision*, written about why her brother stopped singing for a while, and how unhappy it made him. While she hopes that fans will like her songs, her aim is to write about personal experiences that matter to her.

11 What helped Ana stop being scared of singing to an audience?

- A practising her singing with a band
- B asking a teacher to stand on stage with her
- C being in a drama group at school
- D making sure she was not in the front row

12 How was the songwriting course useful for Ana?

- A She was able to meet some well-known singers.
- B The teacher's attitude gave her an idea for a song.
- C She learnt a lot from other writers on the course.
- D The teacher gave her advice about the music business.

13 Ana decided to work with Joss Alton because

- A he promised to let her choose which songs to sing.
- B he offered to help her put on a concert.
- C she liked some other singers that he worked with.
- D he owned a company in her home town.

14 Ana most enjoys writing songs that

- A she is sure her fans will like.
- B deal with difficult times.
- C her brother can sing with his band.
- D help people remember their own experiences.

15 What would Ana write to fans in her blog?

A Listening to my parents playing music on their instruments really encouraged me to become a singer myself.

B Writing songs just gets easier with practice. Nowadays it only takes a week or so – it wasn't like that when I started!

C I loved playing the concert in Dublin. I hope that next time we'll sell all the tickets – it was a shame to have some empty seats!

D I read what people write about me online – it means a lot to me that they like listening carefully to my songs.