

Part 3

Questions 11–15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Rock the Planet

Music journalist Nick Hilman meets young actors from this popular musical show.

Rock the Planet, a musical show where actors also have to be really good musicians, opened in London last year, after five years in the USA, where it was voted 'Best Musical' four times! But doing the show with an all-British cast of actors was challenging. The UK puts more limits on how many performances young actors can do weekly – in the USA, they're allowed to do more shows. Because of this, twice as many actors were required here. Luckily, the director found plenty of talented UK-based actors, and they've just won their first 'Best Musical' award. Although the theatre in London is bigger than the US venue, it's been full every night, with everyone wanting to hear the songs that first became popular in America.

I met 11-year-old Jamie, one of the show's actors. 'It's brilliant that I get paid to play,' he said, 'especially a beautiful and expensive Gibson guitar.' He told me how busy the young actors are. 'We have normal school lessons each day at the theatre. While the teacher's great, I miss my old school mates.' And what do they think of the show? 'Well, my whole class came! The theatre does special deals on tickets for schools. They absolutely loved it and that made me feel really confident. My parents come when they can, but it's expensive for them,' he explained.

When I said I also play guitar, Jamie found a spare one and invited me to play along with him and the other young actors. We played *Days*, a song I wasn't familiar with. Jamie took me through it and I was very pleased with myself when I finally got it right. I was impressed by Jamie's ability and wished I had similar skills. I was just trying to keep up and was glad the show's director wasn't there to hear my mistakes!

While the young actors were already musicians, with some playing several instruments, none had played in a band before. Fortunately, they've found it pretty easy. Jamie admitted that the hard part was appearing natural when they first performed together. They were concentrating so much that they forgot to smile!

The show's on in London for another year, and is well worth seeing.

11 What is the difference between the shows in the UK and in the USA?

- A Fewer young actors were needed in America.
- B Brand new songs have been included in the UK.
- C The UK show has won more prizes.
- D Audiences were bigger in America.

12 What does Jamie say about working on the show?

- A He's glad that his family come daily to support him.
- B He's embarrassed when his friends come to watch him.
- C He's delighted that he's doing something that he loves.
- D He's anxious about the amount of schoolwork he's missing.

13 How did the writer feel about playing music with the actors?

- A surprised that he sounded as good as Jamie
- B satisfied that he had learned a new song
- C happy because they played his favourite tune
- D excited to be playing in front of the director

14 What did the actors find difficult about performing in the show?

- A having to play their instruments with other people
- B learning to play many new instruments very quickly
- C remembering the different songs they had to do
- D looking relaxed when they were playing on stage

15 What would an advertisement for the show say?

A

Come and enjoy this wonderful show while you can – tickets are selling fast as this is *Rock the Planet*'s last month in the UK.

B

Book to see *Rock the Planet* for an experience to remember. Check the website for great prices for student groups.

C

You won't often see something as good as *Rock the Planet* – and with extra performers from America, the sound is even better than ever!

D

After its success in several countries around the world, *Rock the Planet* has now opened in the UK!