

Part 4

Questions 16–20

Five sentences have been removed from the text below.

For each question, choose the correct answer.

There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

How the world's oldest message in a bottle found its way home

Staff at the Marine Biological Association (MBA) in England were surprised when an envelope arrived at their offices addressed to 'George Parker Bidder'. They couldn't understand why someone was writing to the Association's former president, who had been dead for more than 60 years. It became clearer when the envelope was opened and its contents examined. Inside, there was an old postcard. Written on one side was a series of questions about how the postcard had been discovered. **16**

It turned out that the postcard had come from a bottle dropped into the North Sea more than a century earlier. It was one of just over 1,000 bottles that Bidder had thrown into the water as part of a study into ocean currents and the movement of fish. **17** They were generally picked up by fishermen or by people walking along the beach, who then sent the postcards inside them back to Bidder.

The MBA still has some of the postcards. The 400 or so that weren't returned had probably got lost. **18** But somehow, the one carrying the recently returned postcard had remained in the sea for over a hundred years. It appears it finally found its way to a sandy beach on Amrum Island, just off the coast near the German-Danish border. **19** After breaking the bottle open, she filled out the postcard and sent it off to the MBA, not realising she was posting a message from the distant past.

Unfortunately, the delayed arrival of Bidder's old postcard at the MBA offices hasn't added to what staff there already know about the North Sea currents.

20 What happened in between remains a mystery!

- A It's also possible that the bottles containing them had broken.
- B However, they were never found.
- C They believe it shows how much marine science has changed.
- D Most of them were discovered within four years of this experiment.
- E On the other, were directions on how to mail it back.
- F All it tells them is where it was dropped and where it was found.
- G She worked with Bidder to understand how fish move through the oceans.
- H It was then picked up by a woman on holiday there.