You are going to read an extract from a story. For **questions 1 to 8**, *choose the correct answer (***A**, **B**, **C** *or* **D***) and circle the correct letter* **A**, **B**, **C** *and* **D**.

The trees had just started to sprout leaves the day I quit my job to travel. As a contract administrator for a shipping company, I had spent most of the year working in a windowless office. While it was a great job for me, potentially even a good career, it was not what I wanted. I wanted to see the world and write stories.

The decision was finalised two years earlier, when I graduated from college and moved to Spain to teach English. I exchanged my university texts for children's books and spent my spare time travelling around Europe, documenting it all in my blog called *Young Adventures*. I never thought that the blog would eventually turn into a business that sustains me to this day.

After two years, my teaching contract ended. So, I moved back in with my parents to work a nine-to-five desk job dealing with financial reviews, tight deadlines, terrible co-workers and fax machines that never worked.

Writing, however, continued to make me happy. During those two years in Spain, my blog had grown a large following of dedicated readers. I was then faced with a tough decision: quit and pursue writing full-time, or play it safe and keep a good job.

While I felt guilty for wanting something different, I knew that the world of writing and travelling was the right choice for me. I began planning my next move immediately. This time, my goal was to move to New Zealand. This goal kept me sane during a year of work, while I squirrelled away as much money as I could and wrote every day.

Every night, when I came home from my desk job, I would work on my blog. I spent a year building up the content, garnering support from my social media followers and setting up freelance writing contracts, so that I would have guaranteed paid work once I quit.

Halfway through the year, I took a week off and flew to Turkey on my first press trip. I wanted to see if I would actually like travelling full-time and traipsing around a new destination every day. Several months later, I was invited to explore Jordan for a few weeks, and I knew the time had come to make the final leap. I flew to Jordan, where I made friends with the Bedouin and ate more hummus and *kunefe* than I could have ever imagined. Then, I went on a trip to some of the most remote parts of Iceland under the midnight sun. Finally, I hopped on a one-way flight to New Zealand.

Since quitting my job, I have sailed off the coast of Italy and Greece; gone wreck diving in Indonesia and Thailand; ridden horses across the high mountains of western Mongolia; slept under the stars on Australia's Great Barrier Reef; and chased elves in Iceland. Not once have I regretted my decision to leave my job.

To be honest, the path that I chose has not exactly been a bed of roses. It is an emotional roller coaster, where failures and learning experiences are closely intertwined. Two years ago, I wanted to see as much of the world as possible. Now, I prefer to travel slowly, really dig in my heels and get to know a country. I enjoy going back to places I have been before and seeing them in a new light.

Through all this, I have achieved my goal of becoming a writer, blogger, influencer – whatever you want to call me, I did it. I gave up a comfortable life to pursue personal happiness – hopefully proving that dreams really do come true, if you work for them.

Adapted from *http://www.bbc.com/travel/story*

1 In paragraph 2, what did the narrator mean when he said 'it was not what I wanted'?

A The narrator did not enjoy his current job as a contract administrator.
B The narrator quitted his job and went to a shipping company.
C The narrator hated writing stories in a windowless office.
D The narrator was inspired to travel and write.

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2 Why did the narrator find it difficult to make the decision to become a full-time writer?
- **A** He was busy after he graduated and moved to Spain.
- **B** He was discouraged when his teaching contract ended.
- **C** He was uncertain about the future if he became a writer.
- **D** He was worried about the number of readers on his blog.

3 In paragraph 4, the narrator wanted to become a full-time writer because
- **A** it was a stable job.
- **B** it made him happy.
- **C** he wanted to play it safe.
- **D** his blog had many readers.

4 In paragraph 5 which phrase tells you that the narrator needed to save money?
- **A** 'squirrelled away'
- **B** 'the right choice for me'
- **C** 'wanting something different'
- **D** 'began planning my next move'

5 Why did the narrator work hard on his blog?
- **A** To save money for travelling.
- **B** To show his capabilities as a freelancer.
- **C** To gain recognition from social media followers.
- **D** To make sure he has income after he quits his job.

6 While the narrator was in Jordan, he
- **A** chased elves.
- **B** went wreck diving.
- **C** rode horses across mountains.
- **D** ate a lot of hummus and *kunefe*.

7 From paragraph 9, why did the narrator say 'the path that I chose has not exactly been a bed of roses'?
- **A** He regretted his decision of leaving his office job.
- **B** His journey as a travel writer was a challenging one.
- **C** His work as a freelancer gave him comfort and happiness.
- **D** He was tired from travelling to many different countries.

8 The narrator shared this story to remind others to
- **A** pursue their dreams by working hard.
- **B** save money and travel to new places.
- **C** write and set up a blog.
- **D** do freelance work.

[8 *marks*]

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