

Reading

A Read the list of charities and their subgroups. Which of them would you support by giving a donation, and which would you help by volunteering your time? Are there any you wouldn't help at all? Why?

Animal charities

- wildlife conservation organisations
- pet and animal welfare organisations
- hunting and fishing conservation groups

NGOs (non-governmental organisations)

- disaster relief and humanitarian NGOs
- peace and human rights NGOs
- child sponsorship organisations

Arts and Culture charities

- museums and art galleries
- libraries, historical societies and landmark preservation
- theatre groups

Food charities

- food banks
- soup kitchens
- food rescue organisations

B Read the text quickly. What are the different ways in which hunger is being dealt with?



Volunteers:

All work and no pay

by James Miller

On a winter's night in a run-down pocket of Naples, a group gathers outside a crumbling facade behind a tiny square. An oddly quiet bunch, there is no chatter, laughter or interaction of any description. Some have their faces buried in their phones, others turn their gaze heavenwards; in fact, anywhere but at each other. You could call it a conspiracy of pretence, for these people are not strangers. They have lived and worked side by side for years. What, you may ask, is their problem? 1



Inside, university student Alida Benvenuto is concentrating on ladling hot soup into a bowl. An elderly lady wrapped in a shawl to keep her thin frame warm in the chilly evening air, is waiting for what is possibly her only meal of the day. 'It breaks my heart to see them day after day, and I feel embarrassed that while I have been sheltered from the worsening economic situation, they haven't been spared,' reveals Alida when I talk to her later. 2

Curious about this lack of a social life, I ask when she finds time to connect with friends or have a night off. By the look she gives me, I realise having fun isn't particularly high on her agenda. 'Witnessing this level of poverty is a very humbling experience. It forces you to put others first. I can't turn my back on them when they need me here,' she replies in earnest. 3

It's a sentiment echoed by all of the selfless volunteers I've spoken to in Europe's crisis-hit south, where austerity measures have eaten away at public funds resulting in an even greater need for local, community-led food programmes. Across the Adriatic, in Greece, where the situation grows worse by the day, community soup kitchens and cooperatives have sprung up like mushrooms on a forest floor. Joining them are movements fighting food waste. 4

With them acting as middlemen, their plan entailed bringing together donors and recipients. The concept has certainly caught on. On a daily basis now, restaurants, hotels, bakeries and other food points contact them with details of what they wish to donate. Welfare institutions such as orphanages, soup kitchens and homes for the elderly let the group know of their needs, and a coordinated, mutually beneficial food pick-up is arranged. Through this innovative redistribution, over six million meals have been provided for struggling welfare organisations. 5

The true benefits of this are not immediately obvious. For while community kitchens provide sustenance for thousands, the stigma of waiting in a food queue can be quite traumatic, particularly for children. However, by buying and therefore cooking their own food, families can maintain their dignity despite the soul-crushing weight of poverty. 6

All of this gives me food for thought and I consider the nature of my own charitable involvement. Just last week I signed an online petition for a worthy cause. A tally prominently displayed on the page informed me that I was signee number 17,388, but 20,000 signatures were required for further action to be taken; I forwarded it to a few friends. Moving on to Facebook, a link directed me to a group fighting to save a local park from redevelopment, and it urged me to 'Like' it. I clicked 'Like'. Why not? I enjoy parks as much as the next person. I mentioned it on Twitter. 7

Who was I kidding? A couple of digital campaigns requiring nothing more than clicks did not make me a philanthropist. It was nothing more than hashtag activism, where instead of actually doing something, I pretended to care by posting things all over social media. I felt sickened by my own narcissism masking as altruism.

That's not who I want to be. So I have resolved to get involved and do my bit. Bright and early this Sunday morning you'll find me, paintbrush in hand, outside the homeless shelter. I won't film myself or post about it on social media. I will simply contribute to a good cause, and I will do so without the promise of receiving meaningless Facebook likes in return.



C Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then look for cohesive devices in the missing paragraphs in the *Exam Task* below.

D Complete the *Exam Task*.

Exam Close-up



Checking for cohesion

- The gapped text requires you to understand cohesion, i.e. how the text flows in a logical way.
- Read the whole text and then read all the paragraphs, for general understanding. Then pay close attention to the sentences before and after the gap.
- Check for agreement between names/nouns and pronouns, chronology, quotation marks, contrast words, verb tenses, cause and effect, and repetition. These are useful clues to help you position the paragraphs.

Exam Task

You are going to read an extract from a magazine article. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs **A – H** the one which fits each gap (**1 – 7**). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

- A** One is Boroume, a group that came up with a simple idea for a prevalent problem: What if instead of throwing out tons of surplus food from different sectors, it could be donated to those who desperately needed it? In 2011, co-founders Xenia Papastavrou, Alexander Theodoridis and Alexia Moatsou put the idea into practice.
- B** It's simple; they're ashamed. Ashamed of their poverty. Ashamed that their straitened circumstances have forced them here. Ashamed to be waiting for a free meal at a community soup kitchen. In this country of all places, legendary for its cuisine. The irony is both apparent and appalling.
- C** They're looking for answers that are nigh impossible to find, especially where food waste is concerned. But in trying to address the issue of hunger, they have come across a multitude of other problems. Foremost among these is the question of community involvement and how the youth can be convinced to lend a helping hand.
- D** There's no doubting the level of dedication or the sincerity behind the remarks. As pots and pans are scrubbed clean, and floors vigorously swept in preparation for the following evening, I ask one final question. 'It's a lot of hard work. What do you get out of it?' 'Yes, it's hard, and it's often distressing, but someone's got to do it and it's a labour of love,' she says with real feeling.
- E** They're not alone in reaping the benefits; the needs of the volunteers who make it all happen are also being met. At countless charities and non-profit organisations, voluntary work gives people a sense of involvement in community and a purpose. This is even more important for volunteers who are unemployed, of whom there are many in Europe's south. According to those I interviewed, helping feels good.
- F** She is one of a growing number of determined young adults banding together to tackle hunger: one of society's worst problems. Her evenings are not spent out with friends, but here at this citizens' cooperative, feeding the most destitute and vulnerable. On those afternoons when she has no classes, she can be found prepping the evening's meal.
- G** Later that same week I received yet another appeal for help. It was a text message from a friend rounding up volunteers to remove the unsightly graffiti outside a homeless shelter. Could I spare a few hours on Sunday morning? I sent my apologies along with details of a fictitious prior engagement. I'm not proud of that, but I'd reasoned at the time that it was perfectly acceptable since I'd already got behind two causes that week.
- H** Support, in a different form, is also available for individuals and families registered with local councils. Again, in an intermediary role, the group connects the most destitute with benefactors who provide funds solely for the purchase of food. Payments are redeemed for vouchers that are distributed to the beneficiaries to make purchases at participating supermarkets.

E Replace the words in **bold** in the sentences with these adjectives from the article.

destitute humbling prevalent selfless traumatic

- 1 Many social problems become far more **widespread** as unemployment rises.
- 2 The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks left thousands **impoverished**.
- 3 Watching their home burn to the ground was **harrowing** for the family.
- 4 It's **chastening** to see the poor sharing what little they have with others.
- 5 Volunteering her time, weekend after weekend, is an entirely **altruistic** act.

- Does hashtag activism have any advantages?
- Do you think people who help others tend to be healthier and live longer? Why? / Why not?

Ideas Focus



Vocabulary

A Circle the correct words. In your notebook, write sentences with the words you did not use.

- 1 My conscious / conscience would really bother me if I ignored a fellow human being in trouble.
- 2 When the people revolted against the dictator, the army was ordered to oppress / suppress the uprising.
- 3 It is shameful that minorities are being persecuted / prosecuted and driven from their homes.
- 4 I wonder; when people become affluent / effluent, do they stop caring about the less fortunate?
- 5 The police used water cannons to disburse / disperse the protesters who had gathered before parliament.
- 6 To escape conflict, refugees have been emigrating / immigrating to the west in their millions.
- 7 Participants will sleep rough for a week to give them a sense of empathy / sympathy for the homeless.
- 8 The human rights group condemned / condoned the barbarous acts in the strongest terms.



Homeless person with his dogs in Rome, Italy

B Rewrite the underlined parts of the sentences using the noun form of the verb. Do not use more than five words. What do you notice about the nouns?

- 1 She advocates for improved conditions in detention. _____
- 2 Blatantly disregarding the law will get you into serious trouble. _____
- 3 The gang violence in the area alarmed the residents greatly. _____
- 4 Surely censoring the news assaults democracy! _____
- 5 The activists are endeavouring to promote awareness of the problem. _____
- 6 Fortunately, none of the animals in the field were abused. _____
- 7 The anti-smoking lobby is trying to get smoking banned. _____
- 8 Our current prime minister favours cutting the welfare budget. _____

C Match the verbs with the nouns by ticking the table where appropriate.

	a workplace	a product	a factory	a protest	a rally	a human chain	a campaign	a fuss
boycott								
form								
hold								
make								
mount								
occupy								
picket								
stage								

D Write P next to the adjectives that are positive and N next to those that are negative. Then match the adjectives with their meanings.

apathetic	☐	benevolent	☐	brutal	☐
callous	☐	corrupt	☐	humane	☐
just	☐	merciful	☐	prejudiced	☐
tolerant	☐				

- 1 showing compassion and kindness to people and animals: _____
- 2 having an unreasonable hatred of a particular group of people: _____
- 3 willing to be kind to and forgive people in your power: _____
- 4 dishonestly using your position to get money or some advantage: _____
- 5 willing to accept beliefs that are different from your own: _____
- 6 cruel, violent and completely without feeling: _____
- 7 willing to help and be generous towards others: _____
- 8 not interested in anything; not willing to try to change things: _____
- 9 fair, morally correct, supported by a good reason: _____
- 10 unkind, cruel and without sympathy or feeling for other people: _____

E Complete the sentences with some of the adjectives from D.

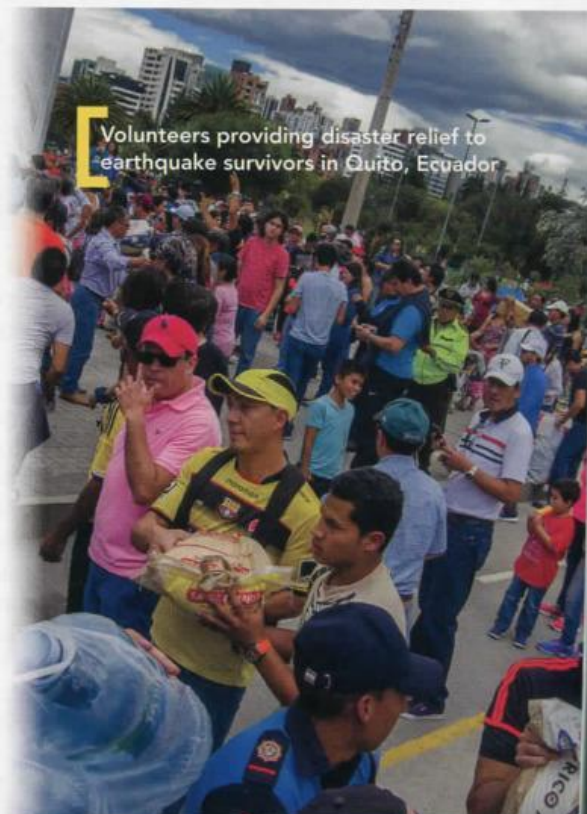
- 1 The _____ city official was caught red-handed with a suitcase full of money given to him by the businessman.
- 2 If we are not _____ of other cultures and faiths, we will not be able to live together in harmony.
- 3 You should definitely involve yourself in your community and its issues instead of being _____.
- 4 He stole the bread because he was homeless and hungry; a _____ punishment would be a simple warning.
- 5 The club was accused of being _____ against poor families, as it would not allow them to become members.
- 6 A society that treats animals in a _____ way is far more civilised than one which does not.

Phrasal verbs

F Match the underlined phrasal verbs with their meanings. Write the correct letter a–h in the box.

- 1 In their attempt to escape the fighting, the refugees had used up all of their savings and had nothing to fall back on. ☐
- 2 While trying to secure much-needed government funding for the animal shelter, we ran up against some resistance. ☐
- 3 The system is broken; no matter how good your qualifications are, it all comes down to who you know, not what you know. ☐
- 4 It is very disappointing that our government has decided to cut back on the amount of international aid that we provide. ☐
- 5 As the two leaders discussed a peace proposal, we all hoped something positive would come out of the meeting. ☐
- 6 The group must face up to the fact that some of its members are using violent means to gain publicity for the cause. ☐
- 7 The campaign to do away with the death penalty has been controversial and has divided public opinion. ☐
- 8 If the government thinks it can get away with approving more coal mines, it is making a huge mistake. ☐

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| a be dependent on | e confront and deal with |
| b develop as a result of | f use as a source of help |
| c reduce | g escape consequences |
| d put an end to | h encounter |



Volunteers providing disaster relief to earthquake survivors in Quito, Ecuador

Collocations & Expressions

G Circle the correct words.

- 1 I can't stand the kind of people who **climb** / **jump** on the bandwagon when a cause becomes trendy.
- 2 When unpleasant realities need to be dealt with, you can't **bury** / **keep** your head in the sand and ignore them.
- 3 The leader's commitment to the cause **sought** / **brought** out the best in the volunteers, who worked tirelessly.
- 4 Although the aid organisation had tried to speak with the minister, its request **fell** / **landed** on deaf ears.
- 5 Following the catastrophic earthquake, NGOs **arrived** / **came** to the rescue with food and medical aid.
- 6 Once a few high-profile celebrities **got** / **went** behind the cause, the donations came flooding in.
- 7 Despite the effects of the financial crisis, the country has **spared** / **saved** no effort in helping the incoming refugees.
- 8 Celia has adopted a stray dog because she felt she couldn't **point** / **turn** her back on the starving animal.

Word formation

H Complete the table with the correct negative form of the words.

biased equal equality fed justice merciful
obedience order paid possessed privileged
tolerance

dis-	in-
un-	under-

I Read the Exam Close-up. Then complete the Exam Task below.

Exam Close-up

Forming negative words

- Read the whole text carefully. Then look at each gap and decide if you think the word will be positive or negative.
- Think carefully if the word you need requires a prefix or a suffix to become negative.
- Nouns and adjectives usually form negatives with a prefix, but different nouns and adjectives from the same root word do not always take the same prefix.
- Make sure the prefix you have chosen is the right one for the word.

Exam Task

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the space in the same line.

The right to fight

Where would we be without (1) _____? These are the people who bring about change and make our world a better place. Whether they belong to a movement that is fighting (2) _____ or are anonymous whistle-blowers revealing the (3) _____ activities of corporations and governments, they are the people who are taking action. There are many famous examples in the fight against (4) _____. Martin Luther King, the leader of the civil rights movement in the US, wanted equal rights for African-Americans. He encouraged people to disobey the (5) _____ laws that kept blacks and whites apart.

This form of civil (6) _____ was also successful when India sought independence from Great Britain. And then there's Loukanikos, the stray dog that became a celebrity when he joined the (7) _____ in Athens' central square. In 2011, he was (8) _____ named by *Time* magazine, along with other protesters, as a 'Person of the Year'.

ACTIVE

EQUAL
LAWFUL

JUSTICE

JUST
OBEY

DEMONSTRATE
JUSTIFY

Loukanikos, the stray dog, becomes the unofficial mascot of city protests in Athens, Greece

