Reading

1 Read the text and choose the correct answers. (3 options)

A big decision

A

So you've decided you want to go to university. But how do you decide what course to do? There are two types of courses: 'vocational' courses, which train you for a particular job like film production, and 'academic' courses like geography or chemistry, which give you skills that you could use in several different types of job. If you're not sure yet what career you want, an academic course would be a better choice. The crucial thing is to go for a subject that you'll really love because you'll be studying it for three or four years. Don't choose the course that you think will get you the best-paid job, or the one that your father or mother studied and advises you to do.

B

After you've chosen your subject, how do you choose from the hundreds of universities and thousands of courses? Firstly, read about the courses themselves. Check precisely what they cover, how they are taught and examined, and what the teachers are like. Next, think about how far from home you want to live, and what sports, arts and social facilities each university offers. Finally, go to university open days to see what a particular university is like, and think about whether you might be happy there.

C

Don't decide too hastily. Studying at university will cost a lot of money and affect the rest of your life. You might find it useful to take a 'gap year' first, when you can spend a year working, travelling or doing voluntary work. You'll learn about yourself and typically get useful life experience, which might help you to choose what you want to do in the future.

1 The most important factor when deciding on a course is selecting one that ....
- a ☐ was recommended by a parent
- b ☐ can guarantee a good career
- c ☐ is enjoyable to do

2 What advice does the author give students about choosing a university?
- a ☐ Discuss the course with some of the teachers at the university.
- b ☐ Visit several universities to form an opinion about them.
- c ☐ Consider only universities that are close to home.

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3 What does the author say about a 'gap year'?

a ☐ Every student should consider taking one.

b ☐ It's the best way of saving money to pay for the course.

c ☐ Students often find it useful for understanding the world.

2 Read the text and complete the sentences with one or two words.

1 Film production is an example of a ..... course.

2 ..... courses are the best choice if you don't know yet what you want to do.

3 Students should think about what ..... each university offers for them to do sports and have a social life.

4 Some students take a ..... before they go to university.

3 Find words and phrases in the text which match the definitions.

1 the ability to do some things well (paragraph A) .....

2 very important (paragraph A) .....

3 exactly (paragraph B) .....

4 include (paragraph B) .....

5 quickly (paragraph C) .....

6 unpaid (paragraph C) .....

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