Unit 1 Getting higher qualifications

Listening Section 1

❶ Look at the advertisement on a college notice board. From the information in the advertisement, can you predict what you are going to hear?



Care for the Community

Part-time student volunteers wanted.

Can you spare a few hours each week to help out in your local community? We urgently need volunteers to help us run and support a range of local care services. We especially need people who can:

- offer care and assistance to the elderly
- help those with mobility problems
- provide support for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For more information, visit www.care4thecommunity.co.uk

❷ Look at the Exam task below and decide what sort of information you need to complete each gap.

Questions 1–12

Complete the form below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND / OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

Care for the Community

Applicant details

Name: **1** .....

Sex: Female

Occupation: **2** ..... student at Brookfields University studying on **3** ..... Course (BA).

Contact details

Phone: **4** .....

Email: **5** .....@chatbox.co.uk

Availability: Up to **6** ..... per week.

Other information

- Reason for applying: Would like **7** .....
- Area of interest: Children with **8** .....
- Experience: Has recently done similar work at a **9** ..... . Found it **10** ..... .
- Perceived strengths: Has excellent **11** ..... . Also listens to people.

12 ..... arranged for Wednesday 10th September.

❸ (2) Now listen and complete Questions 1–12.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Look carefully at your answers and check to make sure:

- you haven't exceeded the allowed number of words and/or numbers ☐
- your answer is grammatically correct (where relevant), and/or collocates with the words before or after the gap (especially in questions 7–12) ☐
- your spelling is correct. ☐

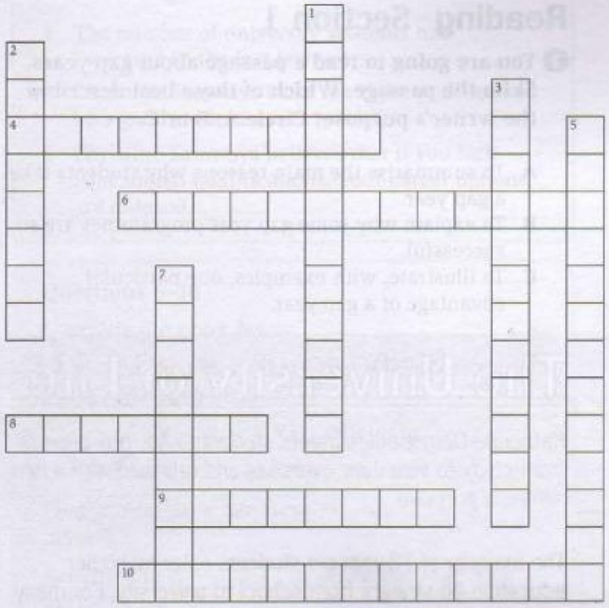
Vocabulary

Dependent prepositions

1 Complete each sentence with one word from the first box and one from the second box. Then write your answers in the crossword.

available concentrate confidence deal involved participate related reputation spent suited	for in on to with

1 The college currently has no money ..... new computers, so we'll have to make the best of the old ones.
2 I'm interested in politics, but I don't think I would be ..... a career in it.
3 I have complete ..... my tutor when she says that she'll do her best to get us through our exams.
4 One thing I've learnt is never get ..... an argument unless it affects you directly.
5 During tutorials, I always try to ..... the discussion as much as possible.
6 Mr Wilkinson has a ..... being the strictest tutor in the college.
7 A lot of student illnesses before exams are ..... stress caused by overwork.
8 On average, just under a third of a student's income is ..... accommodation.
9 I tend to ..... problems one at a time rather than try to tackle them all at once.
10 The college library is always so noisy it's really difficult to ..... your work.



Key vocabulary

2 Complete each gap in this passage with a word or words from the first box, and a word or words from the second box.

brings channels all of its common get to go on recruitment vast vocational	desire programme range resources people together the top to do training

For the last two years, I've been studying at the International University in Bampton, which I believe is one of the best universities in the country. As well as offering a **1** ..... of academic courses, it also runs several **2** ..... programmes, and is especially well-known for its computer-programming courses. What I like about it is that it is a truly international university which **3** ..... from all around the world. It expects its students to be hardworking and to show initative, and it **4** ..... into ensuring they get the best education possible. The students all have a **5** ..... – to get top grades in their subjects – and many **6** ..... postgraduate studies before taking their first step on the career ladder. Naturally, many expect to **7** ..... in their chosen career. The university has an excellent reputation, and some of the world's biggest and most prestigious companies visit the college each year as part of their **8** ..... .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Section 1

1 You are going to read a passage about gap years. Skim the passage. Which of these best describes the writer's purpose? Circle A, B or C.

A To summarise the main reasons why students take a gap year.
B To explain why some gap year programmes are so successful.
C To illustrate, with examples, one particular advantage of a gap year.



The University of Life

Katherine Demopoulos meets students who took a break from study to volunteer overseas and returned with a new sense of purpose

The majority of 18-year-old students entering higher education go straight from school to university. For many school leavers, however, there is the irresistible attraction of the 'gap year', a time between school and university when they decide to experience something new, different or exciting. Many of these so-called 'gappers' go off travelling around the world, often supplementing their limited funds by taking on casual work, while others may do voluntary work in a village in a distant part of the world.

For the majority of gappers, the gap year is simply a chance to enjoy life as an independent adult for the first time. Increasingly, however, they are also proving a great way of reinvigorating a lapsed or flagging interest in education, offering a chance to think about why you should study, or if you need to study at all. A growing number of students, having taken a break after school, are heading back into further and higher education via a roundabout route of working and 'gapping'. According to the latest data from the British university admissions service, UCAS, 105,000 students aged 19, and 44,400 aged 20, entered higher education last year – figures that show a steady annual increase in this age group over the previous three years.

19-year-old student Christine Samways is a typical example. She left school at 16 with nine good exam passes at grades A to C, but did not want to continue studying at the time. She was also worried that, despite having all the attributes of a good student, she would find the challenges of higher education too great and would be forced to drop out. Instead, she gained a vocational qualification in hairdressing. However, she very quickly began to realise it was not quite what she wanted and that going back into some kind of education could be her next step. Like many 16-year-old school leavers starting work for the first time, it dawned on her that if you don't have qualifications, or the right qualifications, you have fewer work choices. 'The things that you want to do just aren't available to you,' she says.

Unsure of what her next step should be, Christine decided to head to Mexico to do voluntary work at a children's home. She was there for a year under the auspices of the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) – an organisation which has been running since 1949, when it sent 50 German students to the US as peace ambassadors. She never expected that working in Mexico would give her such a sense of confidence and, perhaps just as importantly, direction. On returning home to the UK, she decided to make a fresh start in education by enrolling on a course in Social Sciences and Humanities to prepare herself for university. Her new sense of confidence helped at her college interview. Previously, a formal interview would have made her very nervous, but she now found it much easier to talk on an informal and formal level to people she didn't know. 'I feel more comfortable in these situations,' she says. 'Mexico was the first time I'd been out of my comfort zone. Now I think I can cope with things better.'

Christine is now working towards a degree in International Development at Bath University, a choice of subject informed by her experience of working with Mexican children. And, as well as finding some direction in her career, she now speaks good Spanish – a skill she says she intends to keep up, perhaps by working abroad. She knows that the Mexican children's home benefited from her time there, just as she did. As well as being 'an extra pair of hands', she helped to streamline the children's timetable so they spent more structured time

LIVEWORKSHEETS

on homework. The children began to 'do better in school,' she says. 'You only move up a year if you pass a year – I got four children that at the beginning of the year were told they were going to stay down, but they moved up. It's a good feeling.'

ICYE also brings students to Europe from the countries that European students traditionally visit. Agnes Eldad, from Kampala, Uganda, has just graduated with a degree in Social Work. She came to the UK in January this year, getting a voluntary work placement relieving full-time carers of elderly people in Bexleyheath, Kent. With her social work background, she wanted to understand how elderly people were treated in Britain and to see for herself how their relationships with their children, grandchildren and in-laws worked.

Agnes found the experience extremely beneficial, but says that the ICYE only really works if participants have a focus for what they want to do, see and study. Ironically, for her, this could be the only chance to work with elderly people before she goes back home in January. In Uganda, old people live with, and are supported by, their families, so she won't have an opportunity to work with them. Instead, she now wants to set up her own vocational training programme for young girls in northern Uganda. Agnes says her time in the UK has helped her to set her goals for the future.

❷ Now look at Questions 1–13 below and underline the key words and phrases. Then read the passage and answer the questions.

Questions 1–5

Do the following statements agree with the information in the Reading passage?

Write:

TRUE *if the statement agrees with the information*

FALSE *if the statement contradicts the information*

NOT GIVEN *if there is no information on this*

1 The majority of young people who go travelling during their gap year must work in order to finance their trip. .....

2 Taking a gap year can give young people time to consider whether or not they want to continue with their studies. .....

3 The number of university students has increased in the last few years. .....

4 Christine Samways lacks the right qualities to be a good student. .....

5 Christine Samways believes that if you lack educational qualifications, your career options are reduced. .....

Questions 6–10

Complete the notes below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Christine Samways: ICYE participant

Carried out **6** ..... in Mexico.

Programme gave her more **7** ..... in herself.

Returned to **8** ..... when she was back in the UK.

Currently studying **9** .....

Thinks that **10** ..... may be a good way of maintaining her Spanish.

Questions 11–13

Answer the questions below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

11 According to Agnes Eldad, what do people need in order to benefit from an ICYE exchange programme? .....

12 Who does Agnes Eldad plan to work with when she finishes her ICYE programme? .....

13 What does Agnes Eldad have now that she didn't have before she came to the UK? .....

❸ Review your answers. For Questions 6–13, make sure that you have not used more than the maximum allowed number of words.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Grammar

used to / would

Student's Book, page 120

1 Complete the passage with expressions from the box. Use each expression once only.



~~didn't use to be~~	used to be spent	used to pour
used to seeing	used to have	would arrive
would go off	would have to	would receive
wouldn't go		

Today, the Park Street Academy is widely recognised as being one of the best colleges in the country. However, it **1** *didn't use to be* like this. In fact, it **2** ..... a very bad reputation. Students **3** ..... late, and often they **4** ..... to classes at all. The college building was in a terrible state. When it rained, water **5** ..... through holes in the ceiling and the power **6** ..... suddenly without any reason. In winter, the rooms were so cold that you quickly became **7** ..... people in classrooms wrapped up like they were in the Arctic.

Then, in 2010, a new head teacher was appointed, and she turned the place around. Strict discipline was applied at all levels. For example, students who were late or absent without reason **8** ..... pay a financial penalty, while those who improved their academic record **9** ..... rewards in the form of things like cinema tickets. Meanwhile, money that **10** ..... on unimportant things like computer games for the library was instead used to repair the building.

Superlative forms

Student's Book, page 119

2 Underline the correct words or phrases in bold in these sentences.

1 My second **more favourite / favourite** subject was Art.

2 My Maths teacher Mrs Jennings was **the least popular / less popular** teacher in the school.

3 My English teacher, Mr Clark, was one of the **most funny / funniest** teachers I have ever had.

4 Mr Clark probably had the **lowest / most low** rate of absenteeism in the school.

5 When he ran the school's drama club, it had the **greatest number / most number** of members in its history.

6 It was the **greatest popular / most popular** activity by far.

Past simple, present perfect simple and past perfect simple

3 Complete this passage with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Since it first opened in 1989, St Darren's College **1** *has had* (have) a chequered history. The first five years **2** ..... (be) slow in terms of student numbers, but after they **3** ..... (receive) an excellent report in 1994, the number of students applying to the college **4** ..... (rise), and **5** ..... (continue) to do so each year for the next eight years. However, in 2002, the college **6** ..... (see) a 30% increase in rent. Nobody at the college **7** ..... (predict) this, and they **8** ..... (have to) increase fees. As a result, in 2003, student numbers, which **9** ..... (rise) consistently each year since 1994, suddenly **10** ..... (stagnate). They then **11** ..... (start) to fall. By 2007, student numbers **12** ..... (fall) to less than 100. The following year, with applications at an all time low, the college **13** ..... (shut) down. In 2010, the local council **14** ..... (take) over the buildings, and **15** ..... (start) offering vocational courses. Since then, St Darren's College **16** ..... (go) from strength to strength.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Writing Task 1

1 Look at the graph below and complete this introductory sentence by arranging the expressions in the box.

did over a five-year period	school leavers	three things that information about

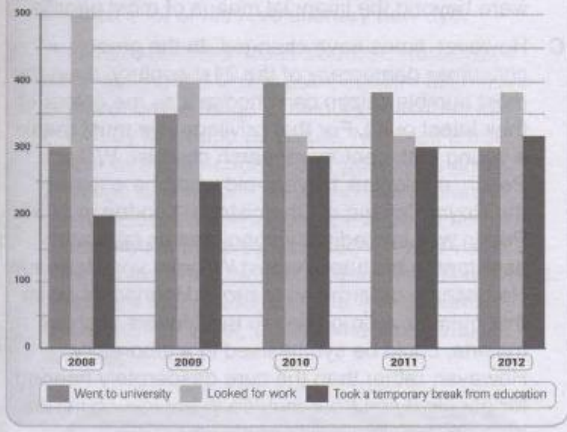
The graph gives .....

.....

The graph below gives the results of a survey showing what 1,000 young people did after leaving school between 2008 and 2012.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

School leavers 2008–2012



2 Complete the rest of the answer with words and phrases from the box.

by just over	by the same amount	
continuous and steady	differences	less marked
more detailed	most noticeable	fluctuated
significant changes	stagnating	the same

At the beginning of the five-year period, about half of the school leavers surveyed looked for work. Of the remaining 500, 300 went to university and 200 took a temporary break from their education. By the end of the five years, however, the figures for those seeking employment and for those taking a break from their education had seen **1** ..... . The former had fallen **2** ..... a hundred, while the latter had risen **3** ..... . Meanwhile, the number of school leavers going to university was **4** ..... as it had been at the beginning of the period. Overall, the **5** ..... between the three groups had become **6** ..... .

A **7** ..... look at the graph reveals that the number of school leavers going to university and the number of leavers looking for work **8** ..... . Between 2008 and 2010, the former increased while the latter decreased. Then in 2011 and 2012, the number of those going to university fell, while after **9** ..... briefly in 2011, the number of those looking for employment rose. The number of school leavers taking a break from their education saw a **10** ..... rise.

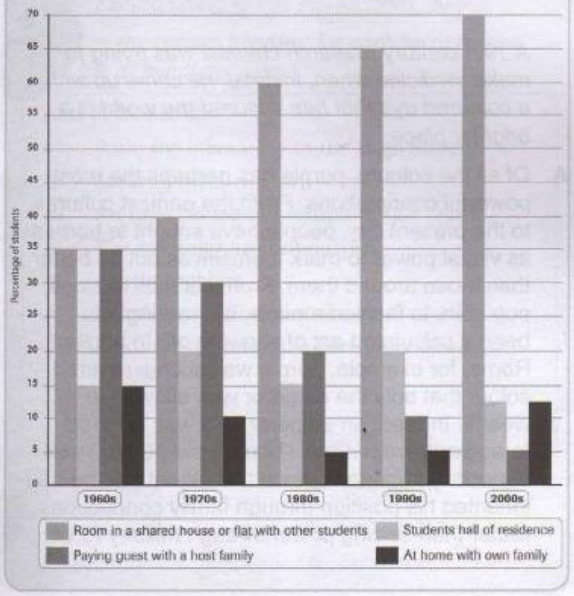
Overall, the **11** ..... changes involved the number of school leavers looking for work and those taking a break from education. This shows that more young people planned to enter higher education, even though they decided to wait a while before doing so.

3 Now write your answer to this Writing task in about 20 minutes. Your answer should be at least 150 words long.

The graph below shows the percentage change in places where students lived over five decades.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Types of student accommodation, 1960s–2000s.



LIVEWORKSHEETS