

CAM 19 - TEST 2 - DICTATION

WORKING AS A LIFEBOAT VOLUNTEER

I never really planned to be a lifeboat 1. _____ when I came to live in Northsea. I'd been working in London as a website 2. _____, but although that was 3. _____, I didn't like 4. _____ life. I'd been really keen on 5. _____ as a 6. _____, and I thought if I went to live by the 7. _____, I might be able to 8. _____ that a bit more in my 9. _____ time. Then I found that the Lifeboat Institution was looking for volunteers, so I decided to 10. _____.

The Lifeboat Institution building here in Northsea's hard to miss; it's one of the 11. _____ in the country. It was built 15 years ago with 12. _____ provided by a 13. _____ member of the public, who'd lived here all her 14. _____. As the Lifeboat Institution is a 15. _____ that relies on that kind of 16. _____, 17. _____ than funding provided by the 18. _____, that kind of help is much needed.

When I applied, I had to 19. _____ a health assessment. The doctors were particularly interested in my 20. _____. I used to be short-sighted, so I'd had to wear 21. _____, but I'd had 22. _____ surgery two years earlier so that was OK. They gave me tests for colour blindness and they thought I might have a problem there, but it turned out I was OK.

When the 23. _____ gets an 24. _____, all the volunteers are contacted and 25. _____ to the lifeboat 26. _____. Our target's to get there in 27. _____ minutes, then we try to get the boat 28. _____ the dock and out to sea in another six to eight minutes. Our team's 29. _____ that we usually achieve that – the 30. _____ time across the country's 31. _____ and a 32. _____ minutes.

I've recently 33. _____ as what's called a 'helmsman', which means I have the ultimate responsibility for the lifeboat. I have to check that the 34. _____ we use is in 35. _____ order – the 36. _____ have special life jackets that can support up to 37. _____ people in the water. And it's ultimately my 38. _____ whether it's safe to 39. _____ the boat. But it's very 40. _____ not to launch it, even in the 41. _____ weather.

As well as going out on the lifeboat, my work involves other things too. A lot of people 42. _____ how 43. _____ conditions can change at sea, so I speak to youth groups and sailing clubs in the area about the 44. _____ of problems that 45. _____ and 46. _____ can have if the weather suddenly gets 47. _____. We also have a lot of volunteers who 48. _____ activities to 49. _____ money for us, and we couldn't 50. _____ without them.

The 51. _____ we get is a 52. _____ process, focusing on technical 53. _____ and safe handling techniques, and it's given me the 54. _____ to deal with 55. _____ situations without 56. _____. We had to do a fire and sea 57. _____ test first, and that's a big help with the 58. _____ care activities we do. We've done a lot on how to deal with 59. _____ and tie 60. _____ – that's an 61. _____ skill. After a year, I did a one-week residential 62. _____, led by 63. _____. There's a wave-tank where we could 64. _____ an 65. _____ lifeboat scenario – so we could get 66. _____ at what to do if the boat turned over in a 67. _____ at night, for example.

Since I started, I've had to deal with a range of 68. _____ situations.

But the work's hugely 69. _____. It's not just about saving 70. _____ – I've learned a lot about the 71. _____ involved. My 72. _____ in IT's been 73. _____ here, and I can use my 74. _____ to help other volunteers. They're a great group – we're like a 75. _____ really, which helps when you're 76. _____ yourself out of bed on a cold 77. _____ night. But actually, it's the 78. _____ months that can be the most 79. _____ time. That's when the 80. _____ tend to be more 81. _____, and you 82. _____ that you can make a huge 83. _____ to the outcome.

LIVEWORKSHEETS