

Part 4**Questions 16-20**

Five sentences have been removed from the text below.

For each space, choose the correct answer.

There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

How the violin changed my life

by Sam Reynolds, 26

I was born into a family of doctors, so my parents were really surprised when I told them I wanted to be a violinist. At first, they thought it was just a temporary thing, since children often dream to do unusual jobs but they quickly change their mind when they grow up.

Learning the violin is not a piece of cake: it means practising for hours every day, pain in your fingertips and neck, and a lot of disappointment. Most of the time, especially at the beginning, it sounds bad.

Anyway, I kept taking classes and practising, until I joined an ensemble and that's when the fun started.

When you eventually perform in front of an audience, the joy you give to others with your music will make the whole effort worthwhile.

When I teach my students I always tell them I remember what it feels like when you can't join in with your friends because you have to practise, so I often tell them about my childhood years.

I have never regretted being a musician. She often jokes that I would be a terrible doctor, but in the end my job is not so different to hers: she cures people's bodies, but I cure their souls.

Guidance for candidates

This part of the reading paper is to test candidates' ability to follow the narrative of a text and understand its structure. In particular, candidates need to:

- refer to the sentences both before and after the gap
- make sure that the sentence they select matches grammatically
- then check that the whole text surrounding the selected sentence make sense.

- A** I realised playing with other musicians is one of the most thrilling experiences you can have.
- B** My sister, who is a doctor, agrees that it was the best choice.
- C** So after a few years I stopped taking lessons and took up the guitar.
- D** This is why, during the first few years, I thought of giving up.
- E** She doesn't understand why I chose this job instead of being a doctor.
- F** The violin is not as difficult to learn as you may think, though.
- G** When I told them again three years later, however, they realised I was serious about my decision.
- H** I also tell them I know what it takes to fight against those 4 strings and make them sound pleasant.

Exam tips

Once you've chosen the right option, ask yourself why the other ones aren't acceptable. For example, try and answer questions such as:

- Does any part of the text mention a thrilling experience?
- Does the text mention the writer's sister in any paragraph?
- Is there any further information about guitar lessons?
- Are there any negative words suggesting the writer was unhappy about his results?
- Focus on the tense of the verb: does it fit in with the rest of any paragraph?
- Does the writer explain why the violin isn't very difficult in any paragraph?
- Do the pronouns 'them' and 'they' refer to anyone in particular?
- Does the writer say anything else about what he has learnt from his experience?