Practice 2

Questions 1 to 8 *are based on the following passage.*
Read the passage carefully and choose the **best** *answer* **A**, **B**, **C** *or* **D**.

The trees had just started to sprout leaves the day I quit my job to travel. As a contract administrator for a shipping company, I had spent most of the year working in a windowless office. While it was a great job for me, potentially even a good career, **it was not what I wanted**. I wanted to see the world and write stories.

The decision was finalised two years earlier, when I graduated from college and moved to Spain to teach English. I exchanged my university texts for children's books and spent my spare time travelling around Europe, documenting it all in my blog called *Young Adventures*. I never thought that the blog would eventually turn into a business that sustains me to this day.

After two years, my teaching contract ended. So, I moved back in with my parents to work a nine-to-five desk job dealing with financial reviews, tight deadlines, terrible co-workers and fax machines that never worked.

Writing, however, continued to make me happy. During those two years in Spain, my blog had grown a large following of dedicated readers. I was then faced with a tough decision: quit and pursue writing full time, or play it safe and keep a good job.

While I felt guilty for wanting something different, I knew that the world of writing and travelling was the right choice for me. I began planning my next move immediately. This time, my goal was to move to New Zealand. This goal kept me sane during a year of work, while I squirrelled away as much money as I could and wrote every day.

Every night, when I came home from my desk job, I would work on my blog. I spent a year building up the content, garnering support from my social media followers and setting up freelance writing contracts, so that I would have guaranteed paid work once I quit.

Halfway through the year, I took a week off and flew to Turkey on my first press trip. I wanted to see if I would actually like travelling full time and traipsing around a new destination every day. Several months later, I was invited to explore Jordan for a few weeks, and I knew the time had come to make the final leap. I flew to Jordan, where I made friends with the Bedouin and ate more hummus and *kunefe* than I could have ever imagined. Then, I went on a trip to some of the most remote parts of Iceland under the midnight sun. Finally, I hopped on a one-way flight to New Zealand.

Since quitting my job, I have sailed off the coast of Italy and Greece; gone wreck diving in Indonesia and Thailand; ridden horses across the high mountains of western Mongolia; slept under the stars on Australia's Great Barrier Reef; and chased elves in Iceland. Not once have I regretted my decision to leave my job.

To be honest, **the path that I chose has not exactly been a bed of roses**. It is an emotional roller coaster, where failures and learning experiences are closely intertwined. Two years ago, I wanted to see as much of the world as possible. Now, I prefer to travel slowly, really dig in my heels and get to know a country. I enjoy going back to places I have been before and seeing them in a new light.

Through all this, I have achieved my goal of becoming a writer, blogger, influencer – whatever you want to call me, I did it. I gave up a comfortable life to pursue personal happiness – hopefully proving that dreams really do come true, if you work for them.

(Adapted from *http://www.bbc.com/travel/story*)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 In paragraph 1, what did the narrator mean when he said **'it was not what I wanted'**?
- A The narrator did not enjoy his job as a contract administrator.
- B The narrator quitted his job and went to a shipping company.
- C The narrator hated writing stories in a windowless office.
- D The narrator was inspired to travel and write.

2 Why did the narrator find it difficult to make the decision to become a full-time writer?
- A He was busy after he graduated and moved to Spain.
- B He was discouraged when his teaching contract ended.
- C He was uncertain about the future if he became a writer.
- D He was worried about the number of readers on his blog.

3 In paragraph 4, the narrator wanted to become a full-time writer because
- A it was a stable job.
- B it made him happy.
- C he wanted to play it safe.
- D his blog had many readers.

4 In paragraph 5, which phrase tells you that the narrator is saving money?
- A 'squirrelled away'
- B 'the right choice for me'
- C 'wanting something different'
- D 'began planning my next move'

5 Why did the narrator work hard on his blog?
- A To save money for travelling
- B To show his capabilities as a freelancer
- C To gain recognition from social media followers
- D To make sure he has income after he quits his job

6 While the narrator was in Jordan, he
- A chased elves.
- B went wreck diving.
- C rode horses across mountains.
- D ate a lot of hummus and *kunefe*.

7 In paragraph 9, why did the narrator say **'the path that I chose has not exactly been a bed of roses'**?
- A He regretted his decision of leaving his office job.
- B His journey as a travel writer was a challenging one.
- C He was tired from travelling to many different countries.
- D His work as a freelancer gave him comfort and happiness.

8 The narrator shared this story to remind others to
- A pursue their dreams by working hard.
- B save money and travel to new places.
- C write and set up a blog.
- D do freelance work.

LIVEWORKSHEETS