ESSENTIAL LIVING English

Progress Test B2

/100

Name:_____

Date: _____

B2

READING

Part 1

You are going to read a magazine article about a young mother whose house was burgled. (2 points for each question).

For questions **1 – 7**, choose the correct answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

Lisa Tyler was weary after a long, hard day at the pottery factory where she works. But as she approached her home in the English city of Stoke-on-Trent, her heart lightened.; soon she would be having a nice cup of tea, putting her feet up and watching *Friends*, her favourite TV series. But first, she needed to change out of her work clothes and **pick up** her three-year-old son from his grandmother"s house nearby.

As Lisa walked up her garden path, she noticed a light flashing on and off in an upstairs bedroom. A shiver went down her back. What if it was a burglar? Quietly, she crept round to the back of the house to see if there was any sign of a break-in. Sure enough, a window was open and someone"s coat was hanging on the gatepost!

Well, 26-year-old Lisa didn"t fancy coming face to face with a burglar, so she ran to a neighbour"s house and rang the police. But as she sat waiting for the police to arrive, Lisa"s curiosity got the better of her and she decided to go back and see what was going on. That"s when she saw a leg coming out of the downstairs front window. It was a man climbing out. Lisa gasped in shock. The burglar was carrying her portable television!

At this point, **Lisa saw red.** She didn"t have many possessions and she"d saved long and hard to buy that set. Besides, nobody was going to stop her watching *Friends.*

„Oh, no you don"t," she muttered under her breath, as the fury swelled inside her. Without even stopping to think, she tore across the garden and started shouting at the burglar. „Give me my TV - drop it now!" she screamed.

Ignoring her, the man fled across the garden. So Lisa threw herself at him and successfully rugby-tackled him to the ground. The burglar struggled to escape, but Lisa hung on like the best kind of guard dog despite being punched and kicked. As she looked up, she realised that she recognised the burglar"s face. She was so surprised that she lost her grip and burglar got away, leaving the TV behind in the garden.

By the time the police and her father arrived, Lisa was in tears. "I can"t believe you were so foolish, Lisa,' scolded her father. „You could have been killed."

„I know, but at least he didn"t get my TV," she replied.

Lisa later remembered the name of the burglar, who had been in the same year as her at school. He was later caught and jailed for 15 months after admitting burglary and assault. In May last year, Lisa was given a Certificate of Appreciation by Staffordshire Police, for her „outstanding courage and public action". But in the future she intends to leave household security to a new member of her family, Chan, who is real guard dog.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. How was Lisa feeling as she walked home from work?

A tired

B anxious

C depressed

D relieved

2. What does „pick up" mean in line 5 ?

A contact

B visit

C collect

D check

3. What first led Lisa to think there was a burglar in her house?

A Something had been broken.

B Something had been left outside.

C Something was in the wrong place.

D Something was moving inside.

4. Why didn"t Lisa wait in her neighbor's until the police arrived?

A She was worried about losing her television.

B She wanted to know what was happening.

C She noticed something from her neighbor's window.

D She realised that the burglar was leaving.

5. What does „Lisa saw red" (line 16) mean?

A She got impatient.

B She felt frightened.

C She got angry.

D She felt brave.

6. What happened when Lisa shouted at the burglar?

A He tried to explain why he was there.

B He fell over as he ran towards her.

C He pretended not to have heard her.

D He dropped the TV and attacked her.

7. What did Lisa"s father do when he arrived?

A He told her off.

B He comforted her.

C He praised her.

D He argued with her.

POINTS 20	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2 You are going to read a magazine article. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A-H** the one which fits each gap **(8-14).** There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning **(0).** **(2 points for each question)**

MAKING MIRRORS

Jane Thomas, together with her husband Clive, returned to Britain after nearly 30 years of living abroad with wonderful memories (**0 ....I.....**)

Determined to use them rather than just keep them in a box or throw them out. Jane made a shell mirror for her bathroom. This was very much admired by friends and neighbours who came to visit her. **(8.....)**

That was two years ago. Jane now runs her own small mirror-making business. She buys shells from all over the world through a wholesale company and has converted a spare bedroom in her house into an office-cum-studio. **(9.....)**

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A local carpenter makes frames for her and a glazier then fits the glass inside. Jane does everything else herself: the design, the initial painting of the frame and then the final making up. **(10 .....)**

Clive is a banker and was able to advise Jane on deciding how much money should be invested when she decided to set up the business. Around £ 3000 was spent on shells alone.
(11 .....) Jane's main problem was knowing how to market her work more widely.

Local shops could only sell a small number because once they had added their profit margin, the mirrors became rather expensive. However, Jane has now made contact with another company that makes and sells mirrors of a different type. **(12 .....)** At such events, the right sort of people get to see the mirrors and can order them directly.

Venturing into other areas, Jane plans to approach restaurants and hotels directly as she thinks her mirrors might be attractive to them. She has also taken a website on the Internet. **(13 .....)** It means Jane doesn't have the expense of travelling around with her range of mirrors in the back of the car.

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Jane reckons it will take another year before her business starts to make money. **(14.....)** She would like to employ someone to help her with the administration and preparation of the frames, for example, which would allow her to devote more time to the artistic side.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Together they can afford to take stands at specialist exhibitions and craft fairs.

B This represents about one week's work and each mirror brings in anything between £ 100 and £ 400 for the business.

C As Jane discovered, it's a good idea to find a company willing to sell goods on your behalf.

D Before long, she was being asked to make mirrors for other people.

E But it didn't end there, Jane also had to think about equipment such as the heavy-duty boxes needed to send the mirrors abroad.

F She works there, surrounded by shells of every shape and colour and the other materials needed to make the mirrors.

G Once this happens, she feels she will be able to concentrate on the side of the business she enjoys.

H This is a very economical way of selling.

I She also brought back a huge collection of sea shells collected from beaches around the Indian Ocean.

POINTS 14	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 3 You are going to read an article about student accommodation in which four college students talk about the place they live. For questions **15-26**, choose from the people **(A-D)**. The people may be chosen more than once.
There is an example at the beginning **(0). (1 point for each question)**

Which student says?

My accommodation seems quite expensive.	**0**	**A**
I have plenty of storage space.	**15**	
My college doesn't provide accommodation.	**16**	
My room is maintained to a high standard.	**17**	
I have washing facilities in my room.	**18**	
I would like to have more independence.	**19**	
I had to buy some extra electrical equipment.	**20**	
I would like to have more private space.	**21**	
It's easy to keep in touch with people here.	**22**	
My room is not very well-furnished.	**23**	
This is the only place where I can afford to live.	**24**	
I save money by doing my own cooking.	**25**	
There are good recreational facilities nearby.	**26**	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A	Matthew Wren

I live in what's called a hall of residence where I get full board as well as a room. It's not exactly what you call cheap, though, I pay £87 per week for my single room and three meals a day. This also includes the use of a washing machine and ironing board. But I can't complain because my room has just been re-carpeted, the furniture's new and the cleaner comes in daily. The main drawback is sharing the bathroom with nine other students and we don't have any kitchen facilities. The first thing I did when I arrived was buy myself a mini-fridge, so I could have cool drinks whenever I wanted. But, we're on the university network, so I have access to the Internet and free e-mail from my room, and we get room phones so I can ring friends around the campus for nothing.

B	Kerry Dunnock

The city where I study is appalling for cheap accommodation, and the college has nothing of its own to offer you, but I was lucky, I found a room in a nice little terraced house with central heating which I share with three other girls. I have a yearly contract with a private landlady and I pay £220 a month for my study bedroom. This is not bad as it also has a large walk-in wardrobe where I put all my stuff. I share the bathroom, kitchen and a small living room with the other girls, and we split all the bills between us. We tried to make a rota for the washing up, cleaning and putting out the rubbish, but it's not always strictly followed. Cooking your own food is much cheaper than eating at college, and I like it because I have what I want when I want it.

C	Becky Martin

I live in a college-owned self-catering block. There's not much luxury, but I get value for money. For my £38 per week rent, I get a reasonably-sized room with an old wardrobe, a tiny desk, one shelf, a rather stained carpet and a sink. When I first moved in, I probably spent more on decoration than I did on food. My only real complaint, though, was that I had to buy a new pillow because the one I was provided with felt like a plastic bag full of old towels. I share the kitchen and bathroom with six other girls. One of them has a TV in her room, but she is a bit possessive about it. The fridge is not huge, so you're always trying to squeeze your food into the last remaining inch of space. I twice set off the fire alarm by burning my dinner, so tended to give up on cooking after that. We eat a lot of take-aways. In the next block there's a games room where we hang out which has things like table football and satellite TV if you need a break from studying.

D	Karl Yorat

I made the big mistake of going to a college fairly near my home. It isn't so much the course that I don't like, but the fact that I'm stuck at my parents' house so I don't feel in touch with what's going on at campus. In some ways I'm lucky because I'm not paying out all the money for food and rent that other people have to find, and I have someone to do my washing, but I don't have the same amount of freedom or privacy as the people who're living away from home. I even have to share a room with my younger brother. When I told my parents I wanted to move out and go into college accommodation, they said they'd stop supporting me financially. So, in the end, I had to give up the idea, that hasn't made any of us very happy.

POINTS 12	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

USE OF ENGLISH

Part 1 **Questions 1-10**

Read the text below and decide which answer **A, B, C or D** best fits each space. There is an example given at the beginning **(0).** **(1 point for each question)**

The Price of Fame

Charlotte Church looks like a (**0**) ..... teenager, but she is far from average. She has an amazing voice. Her fans stand in (**1**) ..... for hours to get tickets for her concerts and she is often on television. Charlotte's singing (**2**) ..... began when she performed on a TV show at the age of 11. The head of a record company was so impressed by her voice that he(**3**) ..... her up on the spot. Her first album rose to number one in the charts.

Charlotte still attends school in her home town when she can. (**4**) ..... , she is often away on tour for weeks at a time. She doesn't miss out on lessons, though, because she takes her own tutor with her! She (**5**) ..... three hours every morning with him. Her exam results in all the (**6**) ..... she studies are impressive.

But how does she (**7**) ..... with this unusual way of life? She (**8**) ..... that she has the same friends as before. That may be true, but she can no longer go into town with them because everybody stops her in the street to ask for her (**9**) ..... . It seems that, like most stars, she must learn to (**10**) ..... these restrictions and the lack of privacy. It's the price of fame!

0. **A** normal	**B** usual	**C** ordinary	**D** natural
1. **A** rows	**B** queues	**C** ranks	**D** files
2. **A** profession	**B** job	**C** labour	**D** career
3. **A** signed	**B** wrote	**C** made	**D** picked
4. **A** Although	**B** While	**C** For	**D** However
5. **A** takes	**B** utilises	**C** spends	**D** uses
6. **A** titles	**B** materials	**C** subjects	**D** lessons
7. **A** cope	**B** adjust	**C** bear	**D** tolerate
8. **A** denies	**B** refuses	**C** insists	**D** complains
9. **A** signature	**B** autograph	**C** sign	**D** writing
10. **A** look down on	**B** make do with	**C** put up with	**D** run out of

POINTS 10	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2

For questions **11-20**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).
(1 point for each question).

How to find absolutely everything

You"ve searched (**0**) ...**all**... over the house but you still can"t find your keys and you"re late. (**11**) ..... this sounds familiar, follow this advice to make sure it never happens again. Stop and think about where to start looking. Don"t start searching (**12**)..... any idea of where the lost item could (**13**) ..... .

"Lost items are often in the place they should be. Have a look in the place where it"s supposed to be first. Someone might (**14**) ..... put it away for you.

Relax and take another look. When you"re in (**15**) ..... agitated state of mind, it"s quite possible to see the item you"ve lost but (**16**) ..... notice it. Take a deep breath and look properly.

Look under everything. The item you"re looking for could be hidden from view - it may be under a newspaper (**17**) .....… it may have fallen off the table. Check carefully in, under, on and beside the place where the object is usually kept.

Retrace your steps. Take a few moments (**18**) .....…. think about when and where you last had the item. Go back to that place and search it thoroughly.

Ask for a little help. Check that (**19**) ..... else hasn"t taken it. You"ll (**20**) ..... yourself valuable time and lots of effort searching when something isn"t really lost, but has been "borrowed".

POINTS 10	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 3 For Questions **21-30,** complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given**. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

Here is an example (**0**). **(I point for each question).**

Example: It was the most relaxing holiday I ever had.
such
I have never (**0**) ***"had such a relaxing"*** holiday.

21. I find Robert"s taste in music very hard to tolerate.
put

I find it hard ..... Robert"s taste in music.

22. I find waiting for buses very boring.
get

I ..... waiting for buses.

23. It"s very difficult to predict the weather here.
tends

The weather ..... unpredictable here.

24. People say learning lists of words is not a good use of time.
waste

Learning lists of words is ..... of time.

25. Christine complained formally when her course of study was cancelled.
made

Christine ..... when her course of study was cancelled.

26. „I find all the advertisements on TV really irritating," said John.
nerves

„All the advertisements on TV really ....." said John.

27. Mark regretted selling his old motorbike.
wished

Mark ..... his old motorbike.

28. „If you take my advice, Paul," said Lynda, you should buy a personal computer."
advised

Lynda ..... a personal computer.

29. Pauline hadn"t expected to see so many people at the concert.
surprise

It came ..... to see many people at the concert.

30. Golf is becoming increasingly popular in Britain.
popularity

The ..... in Britain.

POINTS 20	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 4 Word Formation

For questions **31 – 40** read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).
(**1 point for each question**).

A MEMO FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

I have to bring a matter to your (**0**) ***attention***	**ATTEND**
Unfortunately we have received a lot of (**31**)	**COMPLAIN**
from customers about late (**32**) ..... of parcels.	**DELIVER**
I have come to the (**33**) ..... that the new system	**CONCLUDE**
we introduced last month is a complete (**34**)	**FAIL**
This seems to be due to a (**35**) ..... of factors,	**COMBINE**
but one of the most important ones is that some (**36**)	**EMPLOY**
are not very responsible. The union (**37**) ..... say it"s	**REPRESENT**
not the workers but the (**38**) ..... who are at fault.	**MANAGE**
What is clear is that we have to improve (**39**)	**COMMUNICATE**
within the company. Nowadays there"s a lot of (**40**)	**COMPETE**
in the messenger service industry and we can"t afford to be less than the best.	

POINTS 20	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WRITING

You **must** answer this question

You and your friend want to find a summer job abroad. Your friend has sent you a letter with an advertisement. Read the letter and the advertisement together with the notes.

This sounds interesting, just what we want. I've made some notes on it but I'm too busy with exams. Can you write to them for more details? Maybe you can think of other questions, too.

See you soon.

FCE level -------- ?

waitress --------- ?

where ---------- ?

food ---------- ?

SUMMER JOBS AGENCY

- Do you speak English well?
- We have summer jobs in hotels and restaurants in the USA and Australia
- Accommodation provided
- Travel expenses covered.
- Free time allowed
- We arrange travel to and from your country

Write a letter to the Summer Jobs Agency asking for the information which your friend suggests and adding any relevant questions of your own.

Write a **letter** of between **120** and **180** words in an appropriate style. **Do not** write any **addresses**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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POINTS 20	

LIVEWORKSHEETS