Reading

Task 4

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (17–21).
There are three choices you do not need to use.

Time to Celebrate!

Five people talk about recent celebrations they were involved in.

17

Carla and Tom's anniversary

Our anniversary was special this year – we've been married for ten years. We decided it would be best to have a more formal celebration. First, we thought we'd have a sit-down dinner with three courses. But we quickly realized it was too expensive. Instead, we had a simple reception with starters that we made ourselves and served on plates we borrowed from friends. Tom's parents let us use their wonderful garden for the event. It was beautiful!

18

Sarah's reward dinner

I was surprised when my university decided to hold this dinner for me. They gave me a prize for best scientific research and invited my colleagues and other scientists in my field. It was a grand evening. The room was decorated beautifully, the waiters were smart and the food was delicious. There was a seating plan and speeches. I'll certainly never forget it – other events I've attended were always more casual.

19

Samuel's birthday party

I love the James Bond films, so I decided to ask everyone to come dressed up as their favourite James Bond character for my 18th birthday party. I have some mad friends and they really made an effort with their costumes. My family was there too, and we played music from the movies. Even though everyone was dressed in formal suits and dresses, it was a relaxed party. People didn't leave until 3 a.m. – we had so much fun dancing.

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20

Raheem's graduation

I recently got my PhD in Physics. This is a huge achievement, not only for me, but also for my parents who helped me along the way. A lot of the day was spent taking photos of me in my cap and gown. We then went to a fancy restaurant. It was more expensive than the places I normally go to, but I really liked it. There were only a few of us – my siblings, two of my cousins and my parents.

21

Katerina's holiday party

I love Christmas – the tree, the decorations, the biscuits. Last year I was away from home and I decided to throw a Christmas party for my friends. Many of my friends come from different parts of the world and don't necessarily celebrate Christmas, so I called it a holiday party and asked all my guests to bring a dish they love. It was a great night – lots of food, music and laughter. We were all singing carols by the end.

Match each event to a description.

A crazy and wild
B themed and casual
C family-focused and small
D creative and expensive
E formal and memorable
F international and fun
G unusual and informal
H inexpensive and basic

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Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (22–26) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Expedition to the Arctic

We all have a picture of the Arctic in our minds. For most of us it looks like this: clear waters with white icebergs against a dazzling blue sky, without a person or animal in sight. This image is true, but those who have been there know that there is more to it. The Arctic is actually full of wildlife. It is home to tiny creatures, such as plankton, as well as some of the largest animals on Earth – whales.

Jonathan Cruz, Professor at the University of Strathclyde, led an expedition close to the North Pole to record the variety of wildlife last summer. 'It was important to me to record both the variety and the number of animals at this point in time', says Cruz. 'As the sea temperature increases, the ice caps are starting to melt. This is already having a huge effect on animals. Their living space is disappearing or changing rapidly. I was aiming to get an accurate snapshot of the situation now. We are planning to go back in two years to see if things have changed and to what degree.'

The expedition involved a team of ten researchers setting up 'counting stations'. Cruz explains: 'First, we looked for signs of life – paw prints, fur and feathers. We then set up cameras in several spots. The cameras start taking photos when an animal moves nearby. We were able to connect the cameras to a computer in our camp, so we could log and count the animals that were captured on screen. That was convenient, because it's safer for us to stay together near our camp where we have shelter and food.'

As the equipment is sensitive to extreme temperatures and could easily be damaged by strong winds and snow storms, the team had to come up with ways to protect it. 'We lost one of the cameras, and one stopped filming due to some damage, but that's not bad for these conditions', says Cruz.

The research paints a fascinating picture. 'There is still a variety of life. However, there are far fewer animals than we were expecting, and we could find no evidence for the ringed seal', said Cruz. The underwater cameras captured different species of narwhals, whales and sharks. Cruz is still finishing up collating the data on birds and is planning to publish *his findings* within the next few months.

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22 What does the writer say about most people's idea of the Arctic?

A It is far from the truth.
B It is accurate, but incomplete.
C It is more beautiful than the reality.
D It is different for every person.

23 What did Jonathan Cruz want to do?

A reach the North Pole
B find out how to stop the ice from melting
C document the current state of animal life
D collect information about the sea temperatures

24 Which of the following is TRUE about Cruz's team?

A They looked for places where animals went.
B They set traps to catch some animals.
C Each of them carried a camera.
D They used a computer to get information about the animals they saw.

25 What does Cruz say about the cameras?

A He was disappointed to lose one camera.
B All the cameras were damaged.
C He expected that some of the cameras would be damaged.
D His team didn't know how to protect them.

26 What does the phrase '*his findings*' in the last paragraph mean?

A animals he found
B his travel information
C pictures of birds he saw
D information he discovered

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Task 6

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (27–32).
There are two choices you do not need to use.

Birthdays Around the World

27

Vietnam

Individual birthdays are not celebrated in Vietnam. In fact, many children don't know the exact day they were born. However, this doesn't mean the Vietnamese miss out on birthday treats. Everyone turns one year older on the same day – and that day is Tét, the Vietnamese New Year. Children are usually given money, and everyone wears red. Tét celebrations last for several days and include parades, setting off fireworks and decorating the house.

28

Germany

Birthdays are celebrated by both adults and children in Germany. As in many other parts of the world, sharing a birthday cake with friends and family is a popular tradition. However, never organize an early birthday party for a German or congratulate them before their actual birthday. It's considered bad luck.

29

China

You may be looking forward to eating a delicious slice of birthday cake, but some people in China prefer to eat noodles on their birthday instead. These special birthday noodles are extra long and you have to suck them into your mouth. It's important that you don't bite through them though. If you manage this, it will help you lead a long and happy life.

30

India

India is a diverse country and has many different birthday traditions. Some Indians celebrate their child's first birthday by shaving their head. This symbolizes removing bad spirits and renewing the child's soul. The ceremony is often attended by friends and family and followed by a special meal for everyone to enjoy.

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31

Israel

In many countries the birthday girl or boy wears special clothes, especially if they are having a party. In Israel, children not only wear special clothes, but also a crown made of flowers and leaves. No one is quite sure where this tradition comes from, but there may be a link to Eastern European harvest festivals.

32

Denmark

In some countries people will treat you to a cake on your birthday. Not in Denmark, though. The Danes are expected to bake and decorate their own cake and share it with their friends and family. In addition, if Danes go out on their birthday, they have to pay the bill for everyone. Presents are also not important and most Danes will only bring an inexpensive gift.

In this country _____

A you have to eat carefully on your birthday.
B children have a haircut on their birthday.
C you should be careful about when you wish someone a happy birthday.
D the guests will pay for the birthday meal.
E the guests don't spend a lot of money on a present.
F a certain colour is important during birthday celebrations.
G you will never eat cake on your birthday.
H people believe a popular custom is connected to other countries.

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Task 7

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (33–38). There are two choices you do not need to use.

Learning for Life

Extracurricular activities refer to any activities that are not part of the usual school curriculum. Many schools offer activities **(33)** _____ . School newspapers and chess clubs are also common. These types of clubs give young people the opportunity **(34)** _____ , such as how to communicate well. An activity like acting in a theatre club can ensure young people develop their self-esteem. It also teaches them **(35)** _____ . For example, if you join the jazz band, you need to practise at home in your own time. If you fail to do that, you will let the other members down.

Oleksandr Kravchenko, head of Odessa High School, explains **(36)** _____ to his pupils. 'We don't have time to cover everything during the school day. Some students show a genuine talent for sport or drama, **(37)** _____ . It's great to be able to tell such students "you can join the football team" or "you should audition for the next school production". However, these clubs aren't only for pupils who are already exceptional. We welcome all students. It doesn't matter if you're a beginner or an expert – **(38)** _____ and have a lot of fun at the same time.'

A to explore interests and develop social skills
B about how the world works
C why he's offering a broad after-school programme
D when the students are interested
E but there is only so much we can do in class time
F about taking responsibility
G related to sport, music or art
H we can all take the time to learn together

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Use of English

Task 8

Read the text below. For questions (39–48) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Discount Shopping

You have moved **(39)** _____ of your parents' house for the first time and are starting your life as an adult at university. Sounds exciting? Sure, but being an adult also means being responsible **(40)** _____ money. Here are some **(41)** _____ that will help you keep a healthy bank balance.

Everyone needs to eat, so your biggest spending will probably be on food. A **(42)** _____ way to keep this to a minimum is to plan your meals and shop only for what you **(43)** _____ .
If you make vegetable soup, use the leftover ingredients to make a pasta sauce for the next day. **(44)** _____ aside enough time to cook every day. Once a week, you should **(45)** _____ your fridge and finish off anything that is left **(46)** _____ you go shopping again.

Sometimes you might have to buy items such as clothes and shoes. Waiting for a sale is a **(47)** _____ idea. An **(48)** _____ cheaper way to get clothes is to go to second-hand shops or to buy used clothes online.

39	**A**	from	**B**	off	**C**	out	**D**	away
40	**A**	to	**B**	with	**C**	in	**D**	by
41	**A**	thoughts	**B**	details	**C**	points	**D**	tips
42	**A**	normal	**B**	healthy	**C**	simple	**D**	straight
43	**A**	need	**B**	have	**C**	demand	**D**	miss
44	**A**	Have	**B**	Do	**C**	Set	**D**	Make
45	**A**	control	**B**	check	**C**	watch	**D**	find
46	**A**	before	**B**	as	**C**	while	**D**	when
47	**A**	sensible	**B**	clear	**C**	sensitive	**D**	cheap
48	**A**	almost	**B**	other	**C**	indeed	**D**	even

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Task 9

Read the texts below. For questions (49–58) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Oksana Masters

Oksana Masters **(49)** _____ her first Olympic medal as a rower in London in 2012 – and that despite not having her own legs. Masters is a well-known Paralympian who doesn't limit herself **(50)** _____ . She is also a cross-country skier. At the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Winter Games, Masters took home a silver and a bronze medal, but severely injured her back **(51)** _____ skiing. That meant she could no longer row. However, that's just **(52)** _____ challenge for Masters to overcome. Since then, she **(53)** _____ taken up cycling.

49	A	has won	B	had won	C	was winning	D	won
50	A	row	B	to rowing	C	to row	D	rowing
51	A	while	B	when	C	as	D	during
52	A	another	B	other	C	the other	D	others
53	A	did	B	was	C	has	D	had

New Food

Have you **(54)** _____ heard of a 'cumbermelon'? Or a 'plumcot'? These are just two new fruits that were created by farmers to make our food more **(55)** _____ . Cumbermelons are a mix of cucumbers and watermelons. They are the size of a walnut, look like tiny watermelons on the outside and taste of cucumbers. Have you guessed **(56)** _____ plumcots are yet? They are a mix of plums and apricots, with smooth skin and red flesh. Shoppers seem to like **(57)** _____ unusual new foods and sales are up. **(58)** _____ you be brave enough to try them?

54	A	before	B	now	C	ever	D	once
55	A	excited	B	exciting	C	excitedly	D	excite
56	A	which	B	whether	C	where	D	what
57	A	these	B	that	C	every	D	those
58	A	Would	B	May	C	Could	D	Must

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