

## Optimise B2

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Group/Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

### LISTENING

1 You will hear people talking in five different situations. For each extract, choose T (true) or F (false).  UT Track 12

- 1 The boy was surprised at how many people mentioned space travel in his survey. T / F
- 2 The girl says that an elderly man suggested moving the injured motorcyclist. T / F
- 3 The presenter says that Andrew continues to want to be a drummer throughout the film. T / F
- 4 The girl says she was disappointed when she was first given a project on the land speed record. T / F
- 5 The man says his son was aware that he was being watched. T / F

Score: /5

### READING

#### Young achievers

Here are four stories of people who have achieved great things, all before they were 20 years old.

**A Pelé, 17** If you ask anyone who is the greatest footballer of all time, you'll probably be told 'Pelé'. Born in 1940, Pelé was raised in poverty in the Brazilian city of Bauru. His father was a footballer and Pelé shared his father's passion. Having played in various amateur football teams as a teenager, Pelé ended up being picked for the junior team of Bauru Athletic Club. It was while he was there that he was spotted by a top footballer called Brito. Convinced that Pelé was destined for greatness, Brito took him to Santos FC, a professional football club, where he was signed up at the age of 16. Within a year, Pelé had become the top goal scorer in the league and was chosen to represent Brazil in the 1958 World Cup. Pelé didn't disappoint with his performance. Pelé became the youngest person to have played in a World Cup Final, a record which remains unbroken.

**B Mary Shelley, 18** Mary Shelley has been credited by some as being the inventor of the science fiction novel. Born in London in 1797, she was the daughter of the well-known feminist Mary Wollstonecraft. Shelley's mother died when she was young, but she was raised by her father and his new family. Although she didn't have the privilege of a formal education, Shelley was a keen reader and amused herself by writing stories and poems. At seventeen, Shelley toured Europe where she spent time in the company of literary figures such as Byron. According to legend, it was after hearing ghost stories with Byron that she was inspired to write the novel *Frankenstein*. Although she was twenty when the book was published, Shelley had started writing the novel at the age of eighteen. Her name didn't appear on the first edition of the book, causing people to speculate that Shelley wasn't the true author. Now it's accepted that Shelley did indeed write *Frankenstein* and that she's one of the finest novelists of all time.

**C Mozart, 14** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria in 1756. By the time he was just three years old, it had become clear that he had an exceptional musical talent. Seeing this, his father quit his job so as to give Mozart personalised musical training. By the age of five, he could play several instruments and had written his first musical compositions. Over the next ten years or so, Mozart's father took him around Europe, where he would play for the royal courts. He was also introduced to other professional composers like Johann Bach, who was said to have been an inspiration for Mozart. Later, when he was in Italy, he wrote his first opera, the *Mitridate Rè di Ponto*, at just fourteen years old. Although some people accused him of being too inexperienced to produce operas, Mozart went on to become one of the greatest composers of all time.

**D Jordan Romero, 13** While thousands of people have attempted to climb Mount Everest, Jordan Romero is the youngest person ever to have reached the top. Jordan was only thirteen years old when he climbed to the top of the gigantic mountain with his father and step-mother, professional adventure racers. Many climbers prefer to approach the climb from Nepal, which is said to be easier. However, under-sixteens aren't allowed to make the climb in Nepal so he chose to take the more difficult Chinese route. As if this weren't enough of an achievement, Jordan was climbing Everest as part of the Seven Summits challenge. The Seven Summits are the highest peaks on the seven continents of the world. Within two years of climbing Everest, Jordan became the youngest person ever to complete the Seven Summits challenge.

**2** Read the article. For each question, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person ...

- 1 became famous in a very short period of time?
- 2 was brought up by only one of their parents?
- 3 spent a decade travelling and entertaining people in Europe?
- 4 was given a professional contract when they were a teenager?
- 5 had a parent who was a famous public figure?
- 6 broke more than one record at a young age?

Score: /6

## USE OF ENGLISH

**3** Choose the correct word to fill each gap.

### The Segovia aqueduct

The aqueduct in Segovia, Spain, is an amazing (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of Roman engineering. Constructed nearly two thousand years ago, the aqueduct was used to carry water around fifteen kilometres across the valleys around the ancient city. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ makes the aqueduct so special is that it is still largely intact and in fact it was still in use until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ has something so old been kept in use for so long. Nevertheless, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, the lack of a conservation plan for the aqueduct (4) \_\_\_\_\_ off concerns about its future. In 2006, various conservation groups (5) \_\_\_\_\_ their goal of creating a group with the Spanish government to protect the aqueduct for future generations.

1 A work      B effort      C success      D feat

2 A This      B What      C That      D It

3 A Hardly      B Barely      C Only      D Rarely

4 A sparked      B come      C made      D brought

5 A got      B succeeded      C achieved      D made

Score: /5