

File Test 8
Reading and Writing A**READING**

Read the web review of a historic building in France. Five sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Chateau de Saint Fargeau

This summer we were staying with friends near Dijon in eastern France and we had visited the Museum of Fine Arts which is housed in a magnificent palace, dating back to the 14th century. On this trip I think our hosts were surprised and pleased at how interested we seemed in French history and architecture and they told us that there was another historic site that they were sure we would enjoy. 0 ☐ A

As you approach the Chateau de Saint Fargeau, you are met by a classic fairytale French castle. 1 ☐ Below the roof are row upon row of windows, set in red stone and beyond the castle you can see a large lake and horses grazing in the fields.

Being history-lovers, we were excited to find out about the origins and development of the castle. Fortunately for us, there was a knowledgeable guide as well as our French friends to tell us all about it. There has been a castle on the site since the tenth century but the current building was constructed in the 1400s. It's a large building with five sides and a huge central courtyard and it was mainly used as a residence for the wealthy owners and their guests to enjoy hunting in the local area. 2 ☐ Despite this small disappointment, it was still a beautiful example of the architecture of the time and we enjoyed exploring the chapel and the stables. 3 ☐ The only furniture was long wooden tables and benches down the centre of the huge room and I could imagine great dinners and celebrations here, watched by the stags heads which were mounted on the walls.

We thanked the guide as we left and our friends took us to a local restaurant to enjoy a traditional evening meal together. 4 ☐ As darkness fell, we were shown to places in an enormous outdoor seating area. 5 ☐ We now know that every weekend during the summer an incredible historical re-enactment takes place, involving around 600 people, 50 of them on horseback. The scenes begin in the 1400s with Joan of Arc in shining armour, charging in on a white horse to defeat the English at Orleans. Then they continue through different periods of history right up to the World War Two.

By the time we were treated to the final fireworks display, our hands were red from applauding and you can be sure our friends were congratulated on finding us such a perfect way to spend one evening of our holiday.

- A It was about an hour away and probably the best journey I've ever been taken on.
- B I suppose the historian in me was hoping that it had been the site of an important battle or event in French history but it didn't seem to be the case.
- C Then to our surprise, instead of driving home, they turned the car back towards Chateau de Saint Fargeau.
- D My favourite part was the great hall, with suits of armour on display and swords and shields decorating the walls.
- E It is true to say that my love of history has taken me all over Europe.
- F It has a dark grey roof stretching outwards to pointed round towers at each corner.
- G We were totally unprepared for the amazing show which then started with hundreds of actors in costume appearing from different directions.

Reading total 15