FORMULA C1 ADVANCED

Progress test 1

Name: _____

LISTENING

You will hear two people talking about their experiences of winning. For questions 1–10, complete the sentences with a word from the recording. You will hear the recording twice.

Diego:

1 Diego was persuaded by his _____ to enter the competition.

2 While he enjoyed his visit to NASA, it was quite _____ for him.

3 The visit _____ what he wanted to do when he was older.

4 He _____ some of the story when telling his friends.

5 His story was a _____ in a magazine.

Zofia:

6 Zofia doesn't enjoy the _____ that competition can bring.

7 Her only enjoyable experience of winning just involved _____.

8 The competition included entrance _____ and to the main concert.

9 After the show, she felt _____ about meeting the band.

10 She thinks the reputations of famous people are often _____.

__/20

READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

Section 1
Read the article. For questions 1–8, use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

Mistaken identity: The tale of Martin Guerre

The story of Martin Guerre took place in the village of Artigat, France in the 16th century. It revolves around the **(1)** _____ **(DISAPPEAR)** of a man called Martin Guerre. In 1548 Martin Guerre abandoned his village after an **(2)** _____ **(ACCUSE)** that he'd been stealing from his father. A few years later, however, in 1556, a man turned up in the village claiming to be Martin. His possessed a detailed **(3)** _____ **(KNOW)** of many intimate aspects of Martin's life and he was so utterly **(4)** _____ **(CONVINCE)** that even his wife, Bertrande, and other family members were taken in by him.

However, after some time Bertrande's uncle, Pierre Guerre, became **(5)** _____ **(SUSPECT)** of the new Martin and started to investigate him. After conducting some enquiries, he **(6)** _____ **(IDENTITY)** the man as Arnaud du Tilh from a nearby village and decided to take legal action against him. Although the first trial concluded that he was an imposter, the new Martin appealed and there was a subsequent trial, during which the real Martin Guerre **(7)** _____ **(DRAMATIC)** appeared. The case was closed when Bertrande and Martin's family confirmed that he was indeed the genuine article. In the end, Arnaud apologised to Bertrande for his **(8)** _____ **(HONEST)**.

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Section 2
Read the article. For questions 9– 15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Questioning the connection between birth order and personality

In many families across a variety of cultures, the personalities of siblings are routinely dissected and compared to draw out similarities and differences. Many of those comparisons tend to link characteristics to age, specifically birth order. Popular culture attaches a range of personality attributes to first born, middle and youngest children and 20th century research is largely responsible for this practice. Yet current academic thinking on this topic has comprehensively rejected the claims of all this previous research.

The idea that a child's personality was in some part determined by birth order was first proposed by the psychiatrist Alfred Adler early in the 19th century. He suggested that the order in which siblings were born could account for a great deal of their contrasting personality traits. For example, first-born children were more likely to be conservative and diligent, whereas middle children are emotionally stable and youngest children the most ambitious. Studies undertaken in the 1960s and 1980s also concluded that birth order and personality were linked.

The idea was further developed into a theory during the 1990s by psychologist Frank Sulloway. He researched a large group of famous historical figures and came to some intriguing conclusions. He noticed some trends in personality traits and concluded that political leaders were often first-born children, and thinking people like Charles Darwin and Mahatma Gandhi were later-born children. His theory was called 'Family Niche Theory' and despite many people knowing neither the name of the theory nor its creator, Frank Sulloway, it is clear that it has become a commonly held belief in many societies, especially in Western cultures. It is not difficult to imagine why this theory is widely popular with parents and educators, as it is intuitive and many people can easily find anecdotal examples in their own families.

However, despite our desire to believe it, more recent research has found no evidence to support the theory. Psychologist Julia Rohrer, working at a German university, conducted a study of 20,000 people in three countries, the UK, the USA and Germany. The research could not find any clear differences in personality based on birth order alone. Given that there is such a widespread belief in the idea, it is worth exploring in more detail why the research found no supporting evidence.

Firstly, it is important to highlight the flaws in the original studies. These studies, which involved teenagers or university students, were conducted at one moment in time, and therefore are unable to inform us as to whether the personalities of the people involved shifted over time. It is well known that young people's attitude towards rules, obligations and duties becomes more positive as they mature. As such, different aspects of the personalities of the young participants in these studies may have subsequently flourished. Without any follow-up studies on this cohort, we cannot know with any certainty.

Another factor to be considered is that in these early studies, participants were asked to evaluate themselves and their siblings. Whilst this may not seem to be contentious, it is in actual fact highly significant because the way we judge ourselves against others can differ enormously. In addition, there is a possibility that people had already been influenced by the ideas behind birth order theory and therefore this data cannot be considered as particularly reliable.

What was significant about Julia Rohrer's recent study was that far more analytical measures were employed. The researchers measured differences within families and then compared families with each other. They compared profiles of people from different families but with the same birth order, and importantly, with people who had never met each other. Her investigation also extended over the complete life span of participants. After having applied these more rigorous measures, the results showed nothing to indicate that birth order caused personality differences. Subsequent studies have reached the exact same conclusion and suggest that previous research was either flawed or unreliable and that any observations were exaggerated.

Going forward, it may well take some time for the myth of birth order affecting personality to be thoroughly overturned. After all, it can be challenging to change people's beliefs when something sounds or feels natural. However, this topic serves as a useful reminder as to the importance of revisiting research in light of new evidence so that we can transcend outdated ideas and theories and build a better understanding of the world we live in.

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9 What does the writer say about birth order and personality in the first paragraph?

A Most academic research on this topic was conducted during the 20th century.

B Birth order affects personality in similar ways across a variety of different cultures.

C There is no evidence to conclusively prove a connection between personality and birth order.

D Families love to spend time analysing the differences between older and younger siblings.

10 According to early psychologists, the order that children were born in …

A helped to understand why three was the best number of children in a family.

B determined whether they were more likely to be successful and famous.

C affected how their relationships were with each other in later life.

D was one of the things that affected the development of their character.

11 The writer suggests that Family Niche Theory was …

A more interesting to educators than other members of society.

B likely to be believed as it made sense to most people.

C widely promoted by political leaders during the 1990s.

D an easy way for parents to better understand their children.

12 What does the writer say was problematic with the early studies of birth order?

A They only focussed on the personalities of young adults.

B There was a lack of subsequent research using the original participants.

C The studies focussed too heavily on positive characteristics.

D The researchers were uncertain about the results at the time.

13 According to the writer, the method of research in the early studies …

A ensured participants gave more factually correct information.

B was overly influenced by other theories at the time.

C was a significant improvement on previous methods.

D produced subjective results that were probably inaccurate.

14 Why is recent research considered to be more reliable than previous studies?

A It applied more rigorous research methods.

B It studied a much larger group of people.

C It reached more realistic conclusions.

D It was conducted in many different cultures.

15 Overall, the writer wants to highlight the fact that …

A people no longer believe birth order and personality are connected.

B research from the past is often revealed to be wrong.

C knowledge must be constantly re-examined and corrected.

D academic research often challenges people's beliefs.

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FORMULA C1 ADVANCED

Progress test 1

Name: _____

WRITING

Your class has been watching some online talks about what it means to be successful. You have made the notes below:

How do we measure success?

- Work-life balance
- Improving the world for everyone
- Reaching personal goals

Some opinions expressed in the talks:

- Balance reduces stress in families
- Focuses people on worthwhile jobs
- People feel a sense of achievement

Write an essay discussing **two** of the ways to measure success in your notes. You should **explain which way is a better way to measure success**, giving **reasons** in support of your answer.

You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible.

Write your essay in 220–260 words.

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FORMULA C1 ADVANCED

Progress test 1

Name: _____

SPEAKING

Choose ONE set of three questions per student. Give each student 3–4 minutes.

Holidays

1 Do you prefer going on organised holidays or planning your own holidays?

2 Would you say you're an adventurous person? Why / Why not?

3 What advice would you give to a tourist who has just arrived in your hometown?

Decisions

1 What important decision have you had to make recently?

2 Would you say that you're a decisive person? Why / Why not?

3 What advice would you give someone who is unsure about what career to choose?

__/20

Total ___/100

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