Task 1

- **Read this review of a children's book and then read the statements (1-7) following it.**
- **Mark a statement A if it is true according to the article.**
- **Mark it B if it is false.**
- **Mark it C if, on the basis of the article, it cannot be decided if it is true or false.**
- **Write the letters in the white boxes as in the example (*0*).**

BOOKCLUB

Christopher Middleton on a children's novel not to be ignored

First invent your villain. That's the golden rule of all story-telling, as suggested by unconventional Andy Stanton, author of *Mr Gum and the Power Crystals*, the fourth book in a series which begins with *You're A Bad Man, Mr Gum!* "I thought that if I took as my starting point a truly horrible person, then the stories would flow," declares Stanton. "And they did!"

He hasn't shied away from horribleness, either. As well as having ugly bloodshot eyes, Mr Gum has a personality that's less than winning. "He was a complete horror who hated children and fun," writes Stanton. "What he liked was snoozing in bed all day long, being lonely and scowling at things."

Together with his henchman Billy William the Third (England's Most Horrible Butcher), Mr Gum spends most of his time thinking up foul and anti-social schemes; in this book, for example, he sets out to reactivate a 450-year-old curse that will bring fire and destruction to his home town of Lamonic Bibber.

All he needs to achieve his dark ends is a pair of magical stones (also known as power crystals). And the only person standing in his way is a brave little nine-year-old girl called Polly.

"I think Polly is probably the only character in my books who isn't completely stupid," says Stanton proudly, and a look down his cast list pretty much confirms this point of view. That said, Polly's friends and neighbours do combine kindness with daftness, especially the eccentric Friday O'Leary and Old Granny, whose special talent is to shake her head and say: "The past has a way of repeating itself" again and again.

Stanton's writing method is to throw parts of a conventional novel up in the air and then see where they come down. And it's this extra element of norm-bending that makes the book enjoyable for all ages, although from the outside you would think it was aimed at under-eights.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

0) Andy Stanton originally thought that an evil character was difficult to write about.

1) It was his intention to make Mr Gum as nasty as possible.

2) Billy William lives in a town called Lamonic Bibber.

3) Mr Gum's evil plans are directed against Lamonic Bibber.

4) The magical stones belong to Polly.

5) Polly is a lonely child.

6) Old Granny is an intelligent and talented lady.

7) *Mr Gum and the Power Crystals* is an unconventional book that appeals to both children and adults.

0)	***B***	
1)		
2)		
3)		
4)		
5)		
6)		
7)		

7 pont	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 2

- **Read this account of a piano tuner's work, and then read the summary.**
- **Your task is to fill the gaps (8-13) in the summary with one word only.**
- **Write your answers on the dotted lines.**
- **An example marked *(0)* has been given for you.**

THE PIANO TUNER

A little bit of patience and a lot of skill is the key to perfect tuning

Has it ever occurred to you that when you hear a piano played at a concert or on a recording, you hear the tuner's work as much as that of the pianist? Usually we are only remembered if something goes wrong, and then there are no bouquets or subsequent royalties on CD sales!

The tuner has to make sure not only that the instrument is in tune but also that it's performing correctly. It has to be 'regulated' and 'voiced' as the artist requires, which is not always easy to do.

What tuners need most of all is quiet, which at some concert halls can only be achieved in the middle of the night. You would be amazed at how little understanding there can be from both amateur and professional venues. At some places it is thought obligatory to put out the audience chairs while the piano tuner is working!

When you arrive you often find that the rehearsal is overrunning and the conductor needs 'just 15 more minutes', thereby reducing your working time – sometimes you have to beg them to finish as you see the time quickly ticking away. No sooner have you started work than inevitably various members of the orchestra return early and sometimes even start practising while you're trying to tune! The audience also often enters too early and takes no account of the poor tuner, to the point where you can barely hear.

Among many members of the public, the image of the piano tuner is not good – an old man with case and stick. However, today's tuners are dynamic people who travel worldwide to offer their skills to top concert halls and pianists.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SUMMARY

Pianists are not the only people responsible for the success of a concert, but the contribution of the ***(0)*** _____ is often overlooked. Their job is to ensure that the **(8)** _____ sounds exactly as it should. Ideally, they would need absolute **(9)** _____ for their work. At some venues, however, this is rather **(10)** _____ to get. People working in the concert hall, the public, or even **(11)** _____ can make a lot of noise**.** Another thing that is necessary for doing the job properly is **(12)** _____ **,** but often there is too little of this, too, between the **(13)** _____ and the concert**.** Contrary to popular belief, piano tuners have a rather dynamic lifestyle.

0) ..... ***tuner*** .....

8) ……..

9) ……..

10) ……..

11) ……..

12) ……..

13) ……..

8)	
9)	
10)	
11)	
12)	
13)	

6 pont	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 3

- **Read this article on a famous sports event and then read the split sentences (14-21) that follow.**
- **Your task is to match the half sentences according to the article.**
- **Write the letters in the white boxes next to the numbers. An example *(0)* has been given for you.**
- **Remember there are two extra letters that you will not need.**

IRON MAIDENS

Two determined Londoners have set their sights on victory at one of the world's toughest sporting challenges, the Ironman

Ironman: even the name suggests something beyond normal human strength. Envisage muscle-bound superheroes covered in Lycra doing incredible deeds and you wouldn't be far wrong. The world-famous triathlon is a gruelling test of endurance attracting 30,000 athletes each year.

Whatever the scenery, whatever the weather this formidable event is the same: a 3.8-km swim, a 180-km cycle ride and finally a 42-km marathon, to be completed consecutively and within a 17-hour limit. Although ridiculously difficult, this test of physical courage has not disheartened first-time competitors Nicole Mathison and Karen Berry. "Before we started training, living and working in London meant we spent more nights in the pub than on the race track," says Nicole, an information manager. "Now, as well as the physical improvements, I actually feel more alive; the mental and physical changes are amazing."

"I know completing is not a matter of luck, it's all in the preparation," says Karen. So, after eighteen months of training, how confident do they feel? "We've always believed that Ironman success is achievable, but for us the main thing is completion, the actual endurance is the challenge, not the time," says Nicole.

It's every man (and every woman) for themselves with this race. "I've had to acquire new skills, like fixing punctures," says Karen. "If you break down during the cycling section, there's no big strong man out there that is going to stop and help you refit your inner tube."

Ironman is definitely for the fit, but not necessarily the young. Sister Madonna Buder, an American nun, completed the 2006 course in Hawaii aged 76, finishing with just over one hour to spare, double the world record of seven hours 50 minutes set in Germany in 1997.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

0)	The Iron Maidens come from	**A**	coming first.	***0)*** ***C***
14)	To succeed, participants need	**B**	enter a triathlon.	14)
15)	The Ironman competition takes	**C**	~~London~~.	15)
16)	The regulations take no account of	**D**	strength and stamina.	16)
17)	The two women have been training for	**E**	completing the course.	17)
18)	Nicole finds training has resulted in	**F**	longer than other events.	18)
19)	Completing the course is more important than	**G**	mental and physical progress.	19)
20)	One thing participants might need to do is	**H**	less than a day.	20)
21)	Older people are capable of	**I**	over a year.	21)
		K	mend their bikes.	
		L	varying physical conditions.	

8 pont

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 4

- **Read this article about a tragic 19th century event. Some words have been removed from the text.**
- **Your task is to fill the gaps (22-30) with the correct items from the list.**
- **Put the letters in the white boxes next to the numbers as in the example *(0)*.**
- **Remember that there are two more letters than you need.**

DEATH IN THE VIENNA WOODS

It was a scandal that shook an empire. At 7am on January 30th, 1889, the Archduke Rudolf, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was found dead together with his mistress, Baroness Marie Vetsera in the Imperial hunting lodge at Mayerling in the Vienna Woods, fifteen miles southwest of the capital. Was it suicide as ***(0)*** _____ or was it murder? The police closed their investigations with surprising haste, and the dossier on the investigations **(22)** _____ in the state archives as it should normally have been. Members of the Imperial household were sworn to secrecy. Yet, despite these attempts to cover up, almost at once **(23)** _____ in Vienna of a politically motivated assassination.

The death of the Crown Prince had grave consequences for the history of Europe. Undoubtedly, it **(24)** _____ in the developments that led to the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb nationalist at Sarajevo in June 1914 and the subsequent drift into the First World War.

Unlike his conservative father, the Emperor Franz Joseph, Rudolf was reform-minded and liberal. His education **(25)** _____ by one of his tutors, Father Jacint Rónay, who taught the young Rudolf about philosophy, the ethics of power and the history of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Rónay **(26)** _____ in the Hungarian Democratic Revolution of 1848 to 1849; he had narrowly escaped capture and lived in England as an exile for almost two decades. With his writings and lectures during this period, he **(27)** _____ as a radical philosopher.

Rónay was much impressed by the maturity of the young Rudolf and, as well as shaping his thinking in a liberal mould, instilled in him a deep sense of his historical responsibility. Using various pen names, Rudolf began to write newspaper articles and pamphlets **(28)** _____ pan-German Austrian policies and spelling out his own radical ideas about internal reforms and foreign policies. By the end of 1888, Rudolf **(29)** _____ the German Kaiser Wilhelm and the Emperor Franz Joseph, as well as powerful pan-German members of the Vienna establishment.

So were the rumours true? If so, who exactly were the paymasters who hired the hit-men for that January night in 1889? We may never know. What we do know is that Rudolf **(30)** _____ : Wilhelm did try to create a Greater German Reich by force of arms and, in the process, totally destabilized the whole of Europe for the next half century.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A	openly criticising
B	foresaw the future
~~**C**~~	~~the official explanation claimed~~
D	established an international reputation
E	wild rumours began to circulate
F	had been hugely influenced
G	on opposite sides
H	had been involved
I	was a serious challenge
K	had seriously upset
L	was not deposited
M	was a key event

0)	*C*	
22)		
23)		
24)		
25)		
26)		
27)		
28)		
29)		
30)		

9 pont	

This is the end of this part of the exam.

LIVEWORKSHEETS