Reading Module

Reading Part 1

1 Read the advert and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**) .

> Students: Ask your teachers about assisting in the OPAL Bugs Count survey. The results will contribute towards important research, potentially answering such questions as whether the native two-spot ladybird is declining in numbers due to competition from non-native species of ladybirds.

The purpose of the advert is to encourage students to ...

- **A** work on the design of a survey.
- **B** get involved in research.
- **C** help protect a rare species.

2 Read the text message and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

> Tim, I think I told you last week that my brother is coming to visit next weekend. It turns out his flight's been rescheduled, so my mum has to go to the airport to pick him up and won't be back in time to drop us at the party for 8 p.m. like we said. If you're still keen on going, we'll have to work something out. Bruno

What is the purpose of Bruno's text to Tim?

- **A** to cancel an event they were going to
- **B** to change an arrangement they'd made
- **C** to confirm some details they'd agreed

3 Read the blog entry and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

> **writingandwheels.oup.uk**
>
> Having been a wheelchair user and enthusiastic writer all my life, I wanted to create a place where teenagers could interact and find out what it's like to live with a disability, whether or not they've any personal knowledge of what this is like. It's been a huge success and someone with the technical knowledge to make our site even more impressive would help us to reach an even bigger audience.

What is the purpose of the blog entry?

- **A** to attract someone with a particular skill
- **B** to increase the number of readers
- **C** to highlight individual experiences

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4 Read the letter and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

Dear Mr Jensen,

I'm writing regarding the proposed changes to the canteen menu, which many of us are concerned about, given that they greatly reduce the number of available food options. For instance, students who need a dairy-free choice appear to have been completely ignored. I realize the aim is to reduce staff costs, but surely there's a better way to do this?

Yours sincerely,

Elif Yılmaz

Elif has written this letter to …

A explain why she requires a particular type of meal.

B suggest an alternative approach to saving money.

C raise objections on behalf of a larger group.

5 Read the review and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

http://www.bensblog.oup.com

An experience to remember

If I was concerned that I'd regret choosing something as active as Go Teen camp to fill my summer, then my worries were unnecessary. As it turned out, it was my creativity, not my sportiness, that let me down. Luckily, it was possible to swap those sessions for excursions to the nearby historic sites, which, while not my usual kind of thing, were definitely preferable to the alternative.

What did the reviewer dislike about Go Teen camp?

A the amount of time spent doing arts and crafts

B the locations he went to on day trips

C the emphasis placed on physical activity

6 Read the advert and choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

Tees-R-Us

The holidays are here and so is our annual competition. Could you design a bestselling T-shirt to celebrate our new charity partnership? Remember: it's advisable to try and do something original, but even more crucial is submitting something that tells the world all about the charity's mission. That counts for more than creating the most visually impressive entry, so don't let a lack of drawing skills put you off!

According to the advert, the judges of the competition are looking for a design which …

A contains beautiful artwork.

B communicates an important message.

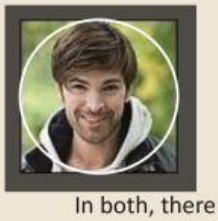
C stands out as different from the others.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Part 2

Young sportspeople

Three young sportspeople talk about their journey to success



The climber

No one's more amazed than me at my success. I was hopeless to begin with, so taking gold at the Olympics was an amazing, life-changing event. The media response was overwhelming – I'm still deciding what I think of being in the public eye so much. Training and competing can be tough, but all of the suffering is inspiring and I've grown as a person, inside and outside the world of climbing.

In both, there are hardships and challenges that have to be overcome. What attracted me to climbing was that if I won, it was me who'd done it, and me alone. I love that sense of achievement and the high you get when it goes well! All I want to do now is keep on improving, but I recognize I'm not going to progress unless I try some of the tougher climbs I've managed to avoid so far. I'm nervous about attempting more risky ones – always have been. The best advice I can give is if something does go wrong, remember how you got out of that situation, and then use that failure to build confidence and become better.

The skier

It's been a long journey from being dragged as a kid to dry-ski slopes to competing at the Olympics, but winning was spectacular. I'd put it down to the punishing regime – from press-ups before breakfast to 12 km runs in the evening. It made my life outside skiing more difficult. I hated it and questioned whether it was worthwhile, but it paid off. Getting recognition for all my dedication is a blast. That's the positive side of being in the papers.

However, you don't want to get too big-headed, but that's unlikely after what happened last year. I misjudged a jump, lost control and injured my knee. It was frustrating not being able to get back out there for six weeks to get that jump right. Even if you're not out with an injury, you need to watch lots of videos of top skiers and study how they ski. It's the key to improving. People new to the sport get put off by the risk of injury, but you won't get far in this game thinking like that. Bottom line, we're here to win. That's what we do. I love it.

The gymnast

I got into gymnastics after watching a professional competition on TV. I thought, 'If they can do it, why can't I?' So I gave it a go. I must have done something right because after only three months the coach advised me to sign up at a better club where there would be fresh challenges and I could focus on learning more advanced techniques. Cut to five years later and I'm winning gold at the Olympics!

It was a childhood dream come true – I couldn't believe my luck! When I got home, I had a massive celebration with my mates. It was incredible. And then I just lazed around the house for a couple of months. But then I came to realize I'd been taking my win for granted, so since then I've been back in the gym. For the first few sessions, it felt like my body was falling apart, but I'm getting back into it now. If you want to go all the way as a gymnast, the main thing is to have a good time, because if you're not having fun then you're never going to win.

Read the questions and match them to the correct text about young sportspeople.

1 Who says it is important to learn from other competitors?

A The climber B The skier C The gymnast

2 Who says their future success depends on gaining new experience?

A The climber B The skier C The gymnast

3 Who has changed their attitude to success?

A The climber B The skier C The gymnast

4 Who says it is important to learn from mistakes?

A The climber B The skier C The gymnast

5 Who says they found it difficult returning to training after a break?

A The climber B The skier C The gymnast

6 Who says the key to success is enjoying yourself?

A The climber B The skier C The gymnast

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Part 3. Six sentences are missing from this text. Choose the correct answer (A-G) for each gap (1-6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Teenage comedian

'It might seem strange to want to stand on a stage and try to make a whole bunch of people laugh,' says Josh Williams, 'but I enjoy it, and I might even be quite good at it.' The 16-year-old from Cardiff in Wales is clearly more than just 'quite good' at comedy.

Three months ago, Josh came first in a competition for aspiring young comedians. In a 10-minute act, he delivered jokes and funny stories to a panel of judges, which included a well-known actor and a famous comedian. 'I'd seen both of them on TV,' he says. Didn't that make it even more stressful? 'Absolutely,' Josh admits. 'I was terrified. _____[1] They understand what works and what doesn't, and if you can impress them, you've probably got some talent.'

Josh writes all his own material. 'Writing is the most creative bit, actually' he says. 'I do what's called "observational comedy". _____[2] I reveal the funny side of comments my friends make, incidents at school, teenage conversations on social media – stuff like that.' It's unlike anything you would get from older comedians. 'They tell jokes about stuff like their children or things that happen at work,' Josh says. 'Or they talk about politics or the economy. _____[3] I'll probably see things their way one day.' Josh thinks comedians should talk about subjects they are very familiar with – 'You can soon tell when a comedian is dealing with a subject they don't know much about.'

He also believes that audiences respond best to material they can identify with. 'I want people of all ages to enjoy my act,' he says. 'Teenagers are probably my ideal audience, though. _____[4] And I can understand why.'

Having said that, Josh is a big fan of television comedy series, which tend to be set in the adult world. 'Some of my favourite shows were made before I was even born,' says Josh. 'It's easy to find them online. _____[5] They provide brilliant examples of the things you can do to make people laugh.'

There is no substitute for live performance, however, and Josh has recently set up a monthly comedy event, called the Ha! Ha! Club, at which anyone under the age of 18 can try stand-up comedy. 'There are so many incredibly funny teenagers out there,' Josh says. 'My aim is to help them get started. Performing live comedy is challenging, but you get lots out of it. _____[6] I know this from personal experience.' It will be interesting to see how Josh gets on with the Ha! Ha! Club.

A There's nothing wrong with doing that, of course, but it's a totally different perspective.
B Despite this, it's an effective way of dealing with the complicated issues involved in growing up.
C They appreciate listening to someone who has a similar point of view to their own.
D Apart from anything, it's a great way to develop self-confidence and communication skills.
E On the other hand, performing in front of professionals is a really valuable experience.
F Certain bits of them are well worth watching carefully over and over again.
G It's all about things that happen in the everyday lives of teenage boys and girls.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Part 4

Read the article about choosing school subjects. For each question (**1–4**), choose the correct answer (**A**, **B**, or **C**).

Since I can remember, I've always assumed I would end up becoming a scientist like my parents. My dad's a biochemist and my mum's a chemical engineer, and it seemed natural that I would follow in their footsteps. At school, my maths and science teachers recognized my capacity for problem-solving and set me some demanding exercises to do in my spare time. I found this motivating and I soon gained a reputation among my classmates for being a hard worker. My career path seemed set, but I've recently developed a love for learning languages and I'm beginning to have second thoughts about my subject choice.

Of course, many young people choose their subjects based on career prospects, and I know that there will always be plenty of demand from employers for people with a scientific background. But being able to speak a foreign language fluently is also a great skill to have on your CV, and being able to speak several could really open doors.

It's not just about employment, though – I've heard it said that learning languages is a reward in itself. In fact, it's claimed that it literally makes you smarter. If the brain is like a muscle, then you need to build it up by using it – language is a tricky thing so communication in a foreign tongue will stimulate and develop different areas of your brain. Your ability to remember things, in particular, can get a real boost from all the new vocabulary and grammar you learn.

I've now reached the stage where I need to decide what to specialize in during my final two years at school. It's exciting, but also a little bit scary. As you can probably tell, I'm moving towards the thing that really interests me, rather than the subjects I'm merely good at. I still worry that language learning may lose its appeal when I get to an advanced level. But I think my Spanish teacher is right when she says that the most important thing is to follow your heart.

1 What reason does the writer give for his academic success?

- **A** His teachers inspired him to put in extra effort.
- **B** His parents encouraged him to be ambitious.
- **C** His classmates challenged him to reach his potential.

2 In the second paragraph, what is the meaning of 'open doors'?

- **A** introduce someone to new ideas
- **B** provide someone with opportunities
- **C** allow someone access to a location

3 Why does the writer compare the brain to a muscle?

- **A** to explain why learning languages is hard work
- **B** to suggest that language learning should be done regularly
- **C** C to illustrate the benefits provided by learning languages

4 What would be the best title for this text?

- **A** The necessity of becoming a scientist
- **B** A language lover's dilemma
- **C** Why we should follow our hearts

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