B2 Reading: After-school Programmes and Plastic Planet

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Task 1. Read the descriptions of four after-school programs. For questions 1–10, choose from the activities (A–D). Activities may be chosen more than once.

A. The Robotics League

The Robotics League offers an immersive, hands-on dive into the fascinating world of engineering and coding. Students collaborate in small teams to design and construct autonomous machines capable of navigating increasingly complex obstacle courses. While the technical demands are quite rigorous, the club places a significant emphasis on collaborative problem-solving and creative design. It is ideal for individuals who derive satisfaction from witnessing a tangible, physical manifestation of their digital programming. Although participating requires a considerable time commitment, the advanced skills acquired in logic and mechanics are widely considered invaluable for future career paths within the competitive technology sector.

B. Elite Debate Society

For those who prioritize the influence of rhetoric over machinery, the ***Elite Debate Society*** provides a sophisticated platform to refine public speaking and analytical thinking. Members conduct extensive research on pressing global issues to construct compelling arguments for weekly competitive events. The atmosphere is consistently intense, demanding that participants think critically under pressure and skillfully anticipate their opponents' strategic moves. It is not merely about winning an argument; the core objective is developing a nuanced understanding of diverse perspectives on complex topics. Consequently, this society is highly recommended for students aiming to bolster their self-assurance before a live audience.

C. Urban Garden Project

This initiative encourages students to step away from traditional classroom environments and engage with the natural world. Participants actively manage a local plot of land, gaining practical insights into biology, environmental sustainability, and the regional ecosystem through the rewarding process of food cultivation. Unlike more competitive extracurricular clubs, the ***Urban Garden Project*** prioritizes collective wellbeing and mental relaxation. It serves as a tranquil alternative to the often frantic pace of the typical school day, emphasizing the patience and dedication required to nurture life. The physical exertion involved is moderate, yet the profound emotional satisfaction of harvesting organic vegetables keeps students engaged.

D. Studio 5: Contemporary Dance

Studio 5 serves as a creative hub where physical fitness seamlessly merges with artistic expression. The curriculum encompasses diverse styles, ranging from modern to jazz, with a primary focus on intricate choreography and rhythmic precision. It offers a fantastic outlet for students to alleviate academic stress through fluid movement and exercise. Instructors maintain that while technical mastery is vital, the ultimate ambition is for students to discover their unique artistic "voice" through dance. The academic year concludes with a professional-standard showcase event, which, although intimidating for some, fosters a deep sense of achievement and creates lasting bonds between the dedicated student performers.

Which activity...

1. **offers a way to escape the high speed of the typical academic day?**
2. **requires a high level of cooperation to solve physical challenges?**
3. **helps students learn to respond quickly to new or unexpected information?**
4. **is noted for teaching skills that are highly useful for specific future jobs?**
5. **includes a final event that might be a bit frightening for some participants?**
6. **allows students to see a real-world result of their computer-based work?**
7. **focuses on the importance of seeing an issue from several different angles?**
8. **prioritizes the process of growing things over a competitive atmosphere?**
9. **emphasizes finding a personal and unique way to express oneself?**
10. **describes a combination of physical health and creative movement?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 2. Read the text carefully.
If a gap has a verb in brackets, write the correct form of the verb (use as many words as you need).
For all other gaps, write ONE OR TWO words that best complete the sentence (preposition, pronoun, linker, collocation, phrasal verb or set phrase).

A Plastic Planet

The campaign "A Plastic Planet" has gained significant momentum in recent years. Its primary goal is to ignite a "plastic-free" revolution, **1.** _____ is a response to the devastating impact of single-use packaging on the environment. **2.** _____ many other green initiatives, this campaign focuses specifically on the food and drink industry, where plastic waste is most prevalent.

The founders argue that **3.** _____ _____ consumers want to make the right choice, they are often unable to do so because of the lack of alternatives in supermarkets. To address this, the campaign advocates for a dedicated "Plastic Free Aisle" in **4.** _____ grocery store. This would allow shoppers **5.** _____ **(*buy*)** everything from fresh produce to pantry staples without any plastic wrapping.

6. _____ some critics claim that plastic is necessary for food safety, "A Plastic Planet" points out that traditional materials **7.** _____ _____ glass, metal, and paper were used successfully for decades. Furthermore, new compostable materials **8.** _____ **(*develop*)** right now that could replace plastic entirely. These innovations are essential, **9.** _____ producing more plastic only adds to the global crisis.

10. _____ we take action soon, the amount of plastic in our oceans will exceed the weight of fish by 2050. **11.** _____ **,** the responsibility does not lie solely with the consumer. Governments must also pass laws that discourage companies from **12.** _____ **(use)** non-recyclable materials. Ultimately, the campaign proves that a world without plastic is not **13.** _____ a dream, but a necessary reality for the future of our planet.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____ _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____ _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS