

I_ Read the following text. Choose the right option: a, b, c or d to answer the questions.

Working as a science journalist

by Shelly Langton



I work as a scientific journalist, writing articles about developments in science. I've always loved the subject and, having a degree in it, I know a lot about scientific theories and practices. My job is to make sure the public find out about the latest research. I'm one of the first people to find out from researchers about anything new and that's the best bit about what I do.

The first time I saw my name on an article in a newspaper, it was amazing! I'm used to that now, though.

Writing can be challenging. Sometimes, scientists' work is very complex and there are ideas and technical words that I have to work hard to understand. Even more difficult is being able to explain things in a way that someone who isn't a scientist can understand. You need to develop a way of writing that's easy for people to follow when they read a newspaper. Getting the right title is also important, as that's what makes people want to read the article. I'm not bad at those things now. If you work for a newspaper in their offices, you'll probably work from nine until five, which are normal office hours. I'm freelance, which means I write for different newspapers - thankfully, in the comfort of my own home. Often, articles have to be written quickly, so they can be published straightaway. This means working late to get things done, or might have to miss a social occasion to get something finished. I knew that was part of the job when started and it's fine because there are also times when have nothing to write, and can take a day off in the middle of the week.

There are opportunities to do fascinating things in science writing. Friends always seem surprised when I say I'm flying abroad to talk to a scientist. But things happen all over the world. I'm attending a conference in Germany soon, which I'm pretty excited about as I haven't been to one before. People often ask me if I work for science journals which scientists themselves read. I'm not qualified to do that and prefer working for the popular media. You never know- one day that may change!



1) In the first paragraph, what does Shelly say she finds exciting about her job?

- a) seeing her name printed on articles.
- b) learning more about her favourite subject.
- c) knowing about discoveries before the public does.
- d) spending time with people who do useful research.

2) In the second paragraph, Shelly says the hardest thing about writing is...

- a) using language anyone can understand.
- b) understanding complicated ideas.
- c) making an article interesting to read.
- d) matching the styles of different newspapers.

3) What does Shelly say about the hours she works?

- a) They don't give her any free time.
- b) They aren't as long as she expected.
- c) They change depending on what she has to do.
- d) They are similar to the hours many people work.

4) What is Shelly looking forward to in the future?

- a) starting to do some international travel.
- b) going to an important science event.
- c) working for a science magazine.
- d) getting a science qualification.

5) What would Shelly say to a friend about her work as a science journalist?

- a) I enjoy taking part in scientific experiments as it helps me understand more about science.

- b) I didn't study science at university, which can make my job quite challenging at times.

- c) I find that the newspaper I work for often expects me to go into the office at weekends.

- d) I get to do a wide variety of things in my job, which keeps it interesting for me.

1 each
5 marks

II_ These are the advertisements for eight holidays organised by the same company. The people below are all looking for somewhere to go on holiday. Decide which book would be the most suitable for the people below.

Robson Clark Holidays



A.

Our guide leads a group of 12-15 people on a walk of around fifteen kilometres a day, through some of the most beautiful countryside in Italy. Each day's walk takes you to a different hotel, where you'll find your luggage has already arrived. Choose between tours lasting two and four weeks.

B.

Join a group of mostly young people for a lively holiday in a small town on a Greek island. Spend the day swimming, diving or sailing in the beautiful blue sea. There are plenty of places to eat and dance. Book any number of weeks, from one to four.

C.

Spend two weeks in New Zealand. You'll be based in a family hotel and our guide will lead walks through the amazing countryside with views of mountains in the distance. The hotel will provide picnic lunches, and there's dancing every evening!

D.

Cruise through the Great Lakes of North America and admire the wonderful scenery while you sit and relax on deck. Many of the towns where the ship calls have hardly changed for over a century. Each cruise lasts one week.

E.

We can help you visit some of the amazing sights of Peru. We've planned a route and can advise on where to camp and where to buy food. We can also supply tents and the essential equipment for mountain climbing. We recommend at least three weeks for this trip.

F.

Enjoy twenty-one days on a luxury cruise ship travelling from Cape Town to London. The ship offers a swimming pool, sports facilities, entertainment and five restaurants. And you can go ashore when it calls at ports along the coast of Southern and West Africa.

G.

Do you enjoy camping? Then this is the holiday for you! Three weeks in Sri Lanka based in a number of campsites with excellent facilities, where you can cook your own food or sample the fare prepared by experienced chefs.

H.

Learn about Mexico from its inhabitants! You stay as the guest of a Mexican family for up to a week - choose between a city and the countryside. You eat with them and they'll show you the places they like.

- 1) Nina would like a holiday with other people in their twenties. She wants to go diving during the day, and go out dancing and to different restaurants every evening. She only has a week free. ☐
- 2) Meghan and Kathy are interested in mountain climbing. They want to sleep in tents and make their own food, and to spend four or five weeks on their holiday. ☐
- 3) Liam lives in the countryside. He hopes to spend a few days in a big city, ideally in the home of somebody who can tell him about life in the city. ☐
- 4) The Green family want to spend two or three weeks walking in the countryside. They would like to stay somewhere new each night, but don't want to have to carry their luggage. ☐
- 5) Lilly and her parents want to go on holiday together for two weeks or longer. Lilly would like to explore different towns, but her parents would prefer to travel on a ship and relax on board. ☐



1 each
5 marks

III _ Read the article below. Five sentences have been removed from it. Select the correct sentence to fit each gap. There's one extra sentence which you don't need to use.

SCRABBLE

As a child, I loved playing Scrabble. It's a board game in which players are given seven letters each - on small flat pieces of plastic called 'tiles' - and take it in turns to make words, which they place on a board. Players score points depending on which letters they use and which squares they cover on the board.



My family played it a lot and everyone was always very keen to win. (1) ... The only time most of it was worth knowing was during a Scrabble game, but that didn't matter to me. When I was a teenager, I stopped playing for a few years.

There was no particular reason for this. (2) ... Then one rainy weekend, my mother got the old Scrabble board out. My parents, my sister and I sat down to play and two hours later, the four of us were still round the table, arguing and laughing. (3) ... After that, I started playing a bit online and realised how popular the game is all over the world. I preferred playing with people face-to-face, though, so I also began taking part in local *Scrabble* competitions. (4) ... For instance, there were only two players per board. Also, each player was timed, to make sure we each had the same number of minutes available to think during each game.

I did quite well and won a few prizes, but I knew I'd never be a world champion. Now I'm in my twenties, I'm too busy with work to be able to play regularly.

(5) ... And when I visit my parents, we often get the board out and have a game together. I think that will always be my favourite way to play!

- A I couldn't believe I'd forgotten how enjoyable it was.
- B I still enter competitions from time-to-time, but just for fun.
- C As a result, I learned some unusual vocabulary at an early age.
- D They take place every week, in a number of different locations.
- E However, these were very different from the family games I was used to.
- F I was just into other things, especially sport and computer games.

1 each
5 marks

IV_ Look at the five signs below. Someone asks you what they mean. For each sign put a tick in one of the boxes (a, b or c) to show the right answer.

1)



Tomorrow is the last day for...

- a) ☐ paying what you owe for the coach trip.
- b) ☐ saying you want to go on the coach trip.
- c) ☐ paying a deposit for the coach trip.

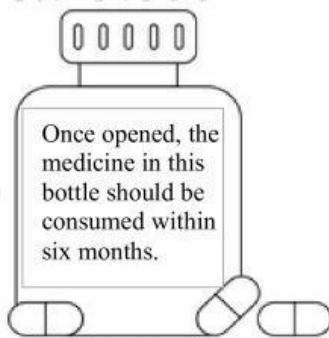
2)

- a) ☐ Mindy cannot collect any of the books she reserved until next month.
- b) ☐ Mindy can only keep the books she reserved for seven days.
- c) ☐ Mindy can now collect some of the books.



*Mindy,
The library phoned. Three of the books you reserved have arrived and will be held for seven days. The others are expected next month.*

3)



- a) ☐ You should drink the medicine in this bottle over a period of six months.
- b) ☐ You should drink the medicine no more than six months after opening the bottle.
- c) ☐ You should open this bottle within six months of buying it.

4) This note asks Bob...

- a) ☐ to take Sarah swimming with him.
- b) ☐ to go out with his mum instead of going swimming.
- c) ☐ to take care of Sarah instead of going swimming.

Bob,
I have to go out urgently, so I'm afraid you'll have to look after Sarah. Sorry you won't be able to go swimming after all.
Mum

5)

- a) ☐ The machines are designed so that children can operate them.
- b) ☐ Children should be careful not to touch the machines.
- c) ☐ The machines are models which do not work.

CHILDREN'S SCIENCE EXHIBITION

Machines have buttons which should be pressed to make them start.

1 each
5 marks