Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 9 Extension

READING

1 Read the article quickly. Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box. You can use each phrase more than once.

definitely	definitely not	possible that

Amanda thinks it is

1 _____ farmers who make crop circles.

2 _____ farmers are making money from crop circles.

3 _____ aliens that are making crop circles.

Kara says that

4 _____ farmers making the crop circles.

5 _____ animals making the crop circles.

6 _____ aliens are making crop circles.

Lisa believes that

7 _____ one person or thing that has made all the crop circles.

8 _____ there is some special energy under the ground.

8

2 Read the article again. Answer the questions with one word or number in each gap.

1 When did people first realise that crop circles existed? In _____ _____.

2 When does Amanda think that farmers could make the crop circles? In _____ _____ _____ _____ _____.

3 What happens to a farm if crop circles appear? It _____ _____.

4 How does Kara think farmers feel when crop circles appear on their land? _____.

5 What does Kara think aliens may be trying to do by making the crop circles? To _____ with us.

6 Why does Lisa think that people might have made some crop circles? For a _____.

7 What kind of energy does Lisa think may be under the ground? _____.

7

Crop circles: who makes them and why?

Crop circles – mysterious patterns which appear in fields each summer – have been puzzling people since the 1600s. After the 1970s, more and more of these odd circles were reported in the English countryside. But, so far, they remain unexplained. Who, or what, is causing them? Do they have a natural cause? Or do people make them? Are they a message? If so, what are they trying to say to us?

AMANDA – TWO DAYS AGO

It must have been the farmers making them all this time. I think some of them might be bored, and they go down to their fields in the middle of the night and make all these circles. It goes without saying that they get a lot of attention from the TV and newspapers, and then their farms become famous. And I'd go one step further. A lot of them may be getting a lot of extra money from tourists in the summer! It can't be aliens. What a ridiculous idea! If aliens exist, then there are better ways to communicate with us than leaving circles in a field in the middle of the countryside!

KARA – YESTERDAY

Amanda shouldn't have said it was farmers. These crop circles have been appearing for centuries. Why would farmers damage their own crops? They must be really angry when they find out that their crops have been destroyed. And it can't be animals making them, or storms. The circles are too complicated, and there are too many of them. I think it could be aliens. They might have a completely different language to us, and we need to try and work out what they're saying.

LISA – FOUR HOURS AGO

There have been thousands of crop circles for centuries, and yes, they are mysterious. They can't all have been created by the same thing. Some of them might have been caused by animals, or the weather. Some of them could have been made by people – maybe students or farmers – wanting to play a joke on the rest of us. I think there could be another reason, which we don't know about yet. For example, there might be some kind of energy under the ground – like a magnetic energy – in special places. This could be causing the plants to move or bend, and that creates the circles.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 9 Extension

LISTENING

3 **Listen to a report about a mysterious event. Put the topics in the order they happened.**

- [ ] The date the event occurred.
- [ ] A similar event, millions of years ago.
- [ ] A description of the event.
- [1] The place it happened.
- [ ] Possible reasons for the event.
- [ ] Why scientists still don't know what caused the event.
- [ ] The effects of the event.
- [ ] Where the event was heard or felt.

7

4 **Listen again and complete the notes with one number in each gap.**

0 The event happened in *1908*.

1 It was an explosion, _____ times larger than a nuclear bomb.

2 In a large area of forest, _____ million trees were destroyed.

3 It was felt _____ kilometres away in a town.

4 People _____ kilometres away could see the sky turning red.

5 People didn't investigate the area until _____.

6 It might have been similar to an explosion that killed the dinosaurs _____ million years ago.

7 In _____, researchers decided that the explosion did not create a large hole in the ground – now a lake.

8 The lake was created _____ years ago.

8

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 9 Extension

WRITING

5 Read this email from a friend. Write a reply (180–200 words). Use the questions below to help you.

Hello!

I went to Loch Ness last week with my parents. Of course, my father said that there was a famous monster living under the water, but I didn't believe him.

But, early one morning, I went out for a walk alone near Loch Ness. It was raining, and quite windy, but for some reason, I didn't want to go back to the house where we were staying. I felt like there was something in the water, watching me!

Suddenly, I saw a big, black shape, about 200 metres away in the water. It was moving! I quickly took out my phone, and called my parents to come and see it. Then, the shape disappeared. What was it? Was it the monster?

I went back to the lake every day to check. The weather was perfect and clear, but I didn't see any sign of the monster again. Maybe it only comes out in bad weather.

See you soon,

Laura

- Do you think the black shape could have been the Loch Ness monster?
- What do you think Laura might have seen?
- Should Laura have used her phone to call her father?
- What would you do if you saw the monster?

_____

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20

SPEAKING

6 In pairs, read the article and explain what you think happened.

LOST SHIP!

A ship carrying 50 passengers has disappeared near the coast of east Portugal. The last contact the ship had was more than 14 hours ago. Everything suggested that the ship was fine. No-one has had contact with the ship since. A small lifeboat has been found in the area but no-one was on board. The government is investigating.

20

TOTAL SCORE 70

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