## NMT Practice 11

## Reading

### Task 1

**Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5). There are three choices you do not need to use.**

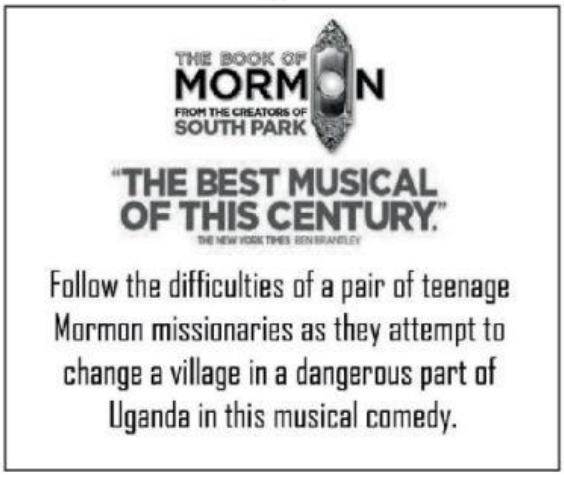
**1**




**2**



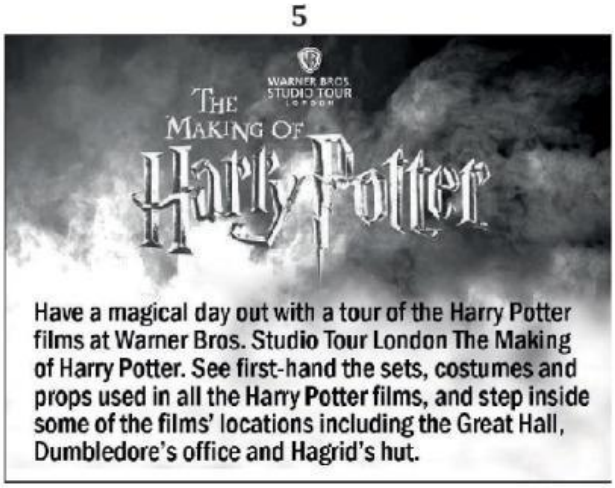

**3**




**4**




**5**




**Which advertisement is about _____?**

- **A** sightseeing
- **B** reading books
- **C** theatregoing
- **D** travelling
- **E** doing sports
- **F** housekeeping
- **G** schooling
- **H** job hunting

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**Task 2**

**Read the text below. For questions (6-10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).**

## An Adventurous Lady

Eighty-year-old women are supposed to stay at home. The neatly dressed grandmother of our collective imagination gets her pleasure from indoor pursuits – cooking, reading, and knitting. Julia Albu never set out to be exceptional. Her daily routine slotted neatly into what the world expects from an older woman living in a leafy village near Cape Town. Every morning she would listen to the radio, and one day the discussion turned to the former President and his extravagant taste in cars. "I was excited," Albu said. "I phoned in immediately to say I was going to be 80, and my car, Tracy, was a 20-year-old Toyota and she ran beautifully. We could happily drive to London together, so why the greedy politician needed all these new cars was beyond me."

Encouraged by the enthusiastic response she received, Albu promised on air to get to Buckingham Palace to have tea with the Queen – and before long, the seeds of what had begun as a joke started shooting up. Six months later, before her 80th birthday, Albu's youthful half triumphed. With Tracy's grey exterior decorated with the rainbow-coloured stickers of her sponsors, Albu set off on a frosty morning from her house in Jakkalsfontein, heading up a tree-lined road pointing north. A cavalcade of *Harley Davidsons* gave her farewell outside Johannesburg to provide Albu with her first taste of African adventure.

In those early weeks, Albu often spent nights in a canvas shelter next to her car. But while her spirit was unbreakable, her body was not, and sleeping on the ground soon took its charge. One would sense Albu's frustration at being physically unable to explore all the corners of the continent unfolding around her. "Oh, to be 40 years younger and not in this godforsaken body," she said. "The mountains I would have climbed; the lakes I would have swum in." Instead, Albu satisfied her boundless desire for Africa through its people. Her travel diary is filled with page upon page of names, numbers and business cards, including the addresses of hundreds of teachers she sent schoolbooks to through a charity she is engaged in.

Albu's African odyssey was interrupted in Egypt, the country where her luck in name-dropping the Queen finally ran out. Held on the border for several days while Tracy was fitted with Arabic number plates, her only option was to sleep in a cafe. "I'm not sure if you've ever spent the night alone in a room with seven Egyptian men, but it certainly was an experience," she said. "They were kind though, and if they were surprised I was a woman on my own, they didn't show it." Because it is not just Albu's age that has captured our imagination, it is also her gender. Women today fight for political, economic and sexual equality, but the decision to drive alone through Africa is one that would raise eyebrows in even the most tolerant of societies. "But why should men be the only ones who are allowed to go off and have big adventures on their own?" Albu asked. "I was never afraid for my life on that trip. Yes, when I was a girl the thought of me driving alone through Africa would have been completely absurd – but the world has changed, and I'm glad it has."

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Up through Egypt she went, and then to Greece crossing the Mediterranean by ferry. From Greece, she drove through Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands, and arrived in London for the summer season. "Oh, I was dying to have tea with the Queen – particularly after telling the world that I was going to," Albu says. "But it was the week of *Royal Ascot* horse race and apparently she was otherwise engaged".

London is not the final stop in Albu's odyssey. Her taste to travelling drives her to cross Africa overland for the second time! Excitement and adventure are not prerogatives of the young. And if the inhabitants of Buckingham Palace one day read about Albu's story and send an invitation down to South Africa, she and the Queen will undoubtedly have a lot to say on the subject.

**6** Why did Julia call the radio programme?

**A** It was a chance to win a new car.
**B** She decided to participate in the discussion.
**C** She had an opportunity to talk to the President.
**D** It was one of her usual activities.

**7** What was Julia going to do according to **PARAGRAPH 2**?

**A** to move from the country to town
**B** to travel to London by air
**C** to take up gardening as a hobby
**D** to drive through Africa to Europe

**8** Which of the following is **TRUE** of Julia?

**A** She slept in a tent on the side of the road.
**B** She swam in the mountain lakes.
**C** She challenged herself to a car rally.
**D** She climbed to the mountain top.

**9** What happened to Julia in Egypt?

**A** She met the Queen there.
**B** She had to repair her car there.
**C** She had to stay at an eating place.
**D** She bought several Arabic plates.

**10** What can be inferred from the text about Julia?

**A** She got an invitation to the annual horse race.
**B** She enjoyed tea at Buckingham Palace.
**C** She got engaged in a royal event.
**D** She reached her destination in summer.

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**Task 3**

**Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (11-16). There are two choices you do not need to use.**

**11**

**Peter Jones**

This much-loved department store is situated on Sloane Square in the heart of fashionable Chelsea. *Peter Jones* has seven floors of excellent quality and value. You'll find exclusively designed souvenirs in the gift shop. Take a look at Peter Jones' fashion floors. If you can't choose from all the fabulous famous fashion brands, ask the advisor for a free consultation to help you achieve the look you want. Shop for all your favourite cosmetics and perfumes in the stunning beauty department. And don't forget to visit the Top Floor restaurant, with its spectacular views over London.

**12**

**Irregular Choice**

*Irregular Choice* was created by Dan Sullivan in 1999 as a reason to stand out from the crowd. Dan saw the footwear market was becoming very neutral and black, yet there was a global demand for something different, individual and something to wear with pride. Irregular Choice shoes have diverse heels, ornate wood carvings and memorable colour combinations. Every Irregular Choice customer has their own favourite designs. Drop in at the Carnaby Street Irregular Choice shop to see the fruits of Dan Sullivan's creative mind for yourself. This store is instantly recognisable with the Union Jack flying over the mock-Tudor exterior.

**13**

**House of Fraser Oxford Street**

Home-grown fashion labels such as Barbour and Biba sit alongside international brands including Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Ted Baker, at this central London department store. You'll also find plenty of beauty products and a wide range of stunning furniture, curtains as well as the latest household goods at *House of Fraser Oxford Street*. Take a break in the charming Tea Terrace on the fifth floor where you can try a traditional British breakfast or afternoon tea.

**14**

**Blitz**

*Blitz* is a massive five-room Victorian Warehouse in Shoreditch, East London, transformed into the world's first vintage department store. You'll find everything from coffee to books through to records and art. The shop prides itself on the 70s, 80s and 90s vintage fashion collections hand-selected to create an on-trend boutique shopping experience.

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**15**

**Loop**

A shop in Islington is dedicated to the age-old pastimes of knitting and embroidery. A large range of hand-dyed wools decorate the walls and shelves, as well as evidence of what can be made from it (toys, shawls, little knits). Of course *Loop* also stocks the tools needed to make these items. The shop hosts regular beginner to advanced workshops to teach the necessary skills. Friendly and knowledgeable shop assistants are more than happy to assist you in exploring the shop.

**16**

**Waterstones Piccadilly**

This former department store has been transformed into eight floors of literary shopping paradise. Browse every genre, see and talk to famous writers at the regular book signings. There is truly something to be found for every reader, from Fiction, Travel, History and Art sections or from across the wider branch. We are especially proud of our Children's section, modelled on a (Piccadilly) Circus theme. Take advantage of the many services we offer. These include our relaxed events programme, readings with the Royal Academy, as well as our gift-wrapping service and competitive shipping all over the globe.

**Which shop _____?**

**A** deals in various objects for home

**B** sells items from the past

**C** can easily be found because of the flag outside

**D** offers professional tips on style

**E** provides masterclasses

**F** serves those interested in sewing

**G** delivers your purchase worldwide

**H** has pieces of elegant jewellery on sale

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**Task 4**

**Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (17-22). There are two choices you do not need to use.**

## Why Your 'Weak-Tie' Friendships May Mean More Than You Think

For nearly 10 years, I have spent my Monday evenings attending rehearsals for my amateur choir. Mondays are not my favourite days, **(17)** _____, but by the end of the rehearsal, I usually feel energised. The singing does me good. So do the people.

There is no choir practice now, and won't be for a long time. I miss it. In lockdown, I don't feel short of affection or emotional support, but I do feel short of friendly faces and casual conversations. Another way of putting this is **(18)** _____.

Scholars used to assume that an individual's well-being depended mainly on the quality of relationships with close friends and family, **(19)** _____, too.

One way to think about any person's social world is that you have an inner circle of people whom you often talk to and feel close with, and an outer circle of acquaintances whom you see infrequently or briefly. Scientists named these categories "strong ties" and "weak ties". Their central insight was **(20)** _____ weak ties are more important to us than strong ones.

Scientists surveyed 282 Boston-based workers and found that most of them got their jobs through someone they knew. But only a minority got their job through a close friend; 84% got their job through another type of relationships – casual contacts **(21)** _____. As researchers pointed out, the people **(22)** _____ swim in the same pool of information as you do. We depend on friendly outsiders to bring us news of opportunities from beyond our immediate circles – and so the more of those acquaintances we have, the better.

**A** but I don't remember their names

**B** that I miss my weak ties

**C** that for new information and ideas

**D** whom you spend a lot of time with

**E** whom they saw only occasionally

**F** but it has turned out that quantity matters

**G** and I often arrive in a bad mood

**H** whom you have never met before

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## Use of English

**Task 5**

**Read the texts below. For questions (23-27) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).**

### Travelling Fit

Feeling fit is a necessary condition for enjoying your trip. Who wants a walking **(23)** _____ of a sight when you've got a headache?

Here are a few measures you can **(24)** _____ to assure that you feel as healthy as possible while travelling.

Since most travellers eat out when they're away, finding a good balance of the proper nutrients may not be a priority. And this is one of the worst things you can **(25)** _____ to your body. Never skip **(26)** _____ – have a light breakfast and lunch, and then your hearty dinner. Also, keep in mind that a lot of good restaurants have become mindful of health, **(27)** _____ a variety of low fat, low sodium cuisine that is every bit as delicious as the alternative.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **23** | **A** | tour | **B** | journey | **C** | cruise | **D** | travel |
| **24** | **A** | make | **B** | take | **C** | use | **D** | get |
| **25** | **A** | do | **B** | put | **C** | bring | **D** | give |
| **26** | **A** | courses | **B** | dishes | **C** | meals | **D** | foods |
| **27** | **A** | suggesting | **B** | offering | **C** | proposing | **D** | recommending |

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**Task 6**

**Read the texts below. For questions (28-32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).**

## The Oscars

The Academy Awards (*The Oscars*) **(28)** _____ each year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), a professional organization of film industry heavyweights. *The Oscar* is its casual nickname; the official name of the golden statuette is the *Academy Award of Merit*. They were first granted in **(29)** _____, first broadcast on radio the following year, and first televised in the 1950s. The first award show ran a total of 15 minutes, which is a far cry from the hours-long marathons they've become.

The statue that everyone hopes **(30)** _____ home was modelled after the Mexican actor, film director, and screenwriter, Emilio "El Indio" Fernández, best known for **(31)** _____ *María Candelaria*. The statue's nickname, *Oscar*, has conflicting **(32)** _____ stories, but the most popular narrative credits Margaret Herrick, Academy Award librarian and eventual Director of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Herrick claimed that the statuette looked "like her Uncle Oscar."

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **28** | **A** | was awarded | **B** | have awarded | **C** | are awarded | **D** | awarded |
| **29** | **A** | 1929 | **B** | the 1929 | **C** | the 1929th | **D** | 1929th |
| **30** | **A** | take | **B** | to take | **C** | be taken | **D** | taking |
| **31** | **A** | being directed | **B** | directed | **C** | directing | **D** | direct |
| **32** | **A** | originator | **B** | originally | **C** | originate | **D** | origin |

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