

Practice Paper Test for Olympiad Preparation (Form 8 / Unit 8)

Part 1. Listening

Listen to the interview and choose the correct options to complete the sentences:

1. The interviewer told the man that
2. After being asked the first question, the man said
3. The man enjoys reading historical fiction because
4. The book *My Life* mentioned by the man
5. According to the interview, the man
6. The man says to the interviewer that
7. According to the man, he uses his computer

Part 2. Reading

Read the text and choose the correct options to complete the sentences:

Beach Books

Summer is coming, and we all know what that means: sun, beaches, ice cream and books! Yes, summer is the time to relax and read all those books that you have wanted to read all year but just haven't found the time. *Life and Style's* Carrie Sommers takes a look at some top beach reads for this year and the authors they were written by.

Arthur and George, written by the very famous English writer Julian Barnes, is a must this summer season. The book was published in 2005 and is the tenth novel by Barnes. While the novel, which takes place in the 1900s, is classified as fiction, it is actually about two real historical people. Barnes got the idea for his novel from a true story called the *Great Wyrley Outrages*. One of the characters in *Arthur and George* you are sure to know—Arthur is the great Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. That's right ... the man responsible for all those cool Sherlock Holmes detective stories! The second character is a lawyer, George Edalji, who the police say has committed the crime of killing farm animals. Arthur Conan Doyle, who both in real life and in the novel is very unhappy because his wife has died, comes across the case of George and decides to try to help him. Conan Doyle's adventures as a real detective are very exciting. I'm positive that once you start the book, you will have to read on to the very end!

If you look up 'science fiction writer' in any encyclopedia, one of the first names you will see is Philip K Dick. Born in Illinois in the USA in 1928, Dick wrote a total of 44 novels! But that's not all! Dick also wrote about 121 short stories, many of which have been published in magazines. Over the years, ten of Dick's stories and novels have been made into popular films. His novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* was published in 1968, and was made into the film *Blade Runner*, starring Harrison Ford and directed by Ridley Scott, in 1982. Dick's novel is quite different from the film, and if you asked me, I'd have to say that the novel was much better. A friend gave me the book for my birthday and after the party I started flicking through it. I couldn't put it down! In one evening I read it from beginning to end! The story is about a 'police officer' named Rick Deckard whose job is to 'retire' androids, which are a kind of robot. Rick lives in a very strange world—a world where many animals are endangered or have become extinct and people are suffering from the consequences of a disastrous nuclear war. Because the Earth is not a good place to live anymore, many humans have gone to live on other planets. And scientists have developed the technology to make androids! Rick's job is to catch—and 'retire'—six androids that have come to Earth illegally from another planet. Sounds great? It is!

I know that not everyone loves fiction so for all of you non-fiction lovers out there, why not try something by the best-selling author Bill Bryson? Bryson, an American born in 1951, offers readers a lot to choose from. If you like guidebooks, you'll love Bryson's travel books *Neither Here Nor There: Travels in Europe* or *Down Under*, a book about Australia. If you are interested in languages, everyone from students to linguists to translators will enjoy Bryson's *Dictionary for Writers and Editors* or Bryson's *The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got That Way*. And, finally, if you like science, you've got to read *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Bryson said he wrote this book because he was unhappy about how little he had known about science. Because, as a student, teachers and textbooks didn't make it very exciting to learn new things, Bryson

decided to write a science book that celebrated knowledge and made learning about science interesting, informative and fun. I, for one, think he was very successful, and at almost 500 pages, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is sure to keep you busy for the entire summer!

1. The narrator says that *Arthur and George*
 - a) was written in the summer of 2005.
 - b) is a fiction novel by Julian Barnes.
 - c) was written and published in the 1900s.
 - d) is the tenth true story Julian Barnes has published.
2. In *Arthur and George*,
 - a) Sherlock Holmes writes a detective story.
 - b) George is a police officer investigating a case.
 - c) one of the main characters is a famous writer.
 - d) Conan Doyle is a criminal being chased by police.
3. When the narrator says she is looking something up, she is
 - a) trying to find a particular piece of information in a book.
 - b) turning a piece of paper to see the other side.
 - c) reading so that others can hear her.
 - d) reading a novel.
4. According to the narrator, Philip K Dick
 - a) made ten films from his stories.
 - b) had all of his work published in magazines.
 - c) directed the film *Blade Runner* with Harrison Ford.
 - d) was a science fiction writer from the USA.
5. When the narrator was flicking through the book, she was
 - a) writing information in an empty space.
 - b) turning the pages quickly.
 - c) crossing out mistakes in the novel.
 - d) starting to read more carefully.
6. The narrator describes Bill Bryson as
 - a) someone who has written travel books.
 - b) somebody who loves non-fiction.
 - c) a writer who has sold a lot of fiction.
 - d) an American fiction writer.
7. Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is
 - a) a book for history teachers.
 - b) a textbook for students.
 - c) a book about science.
 - d) an English dictionary.

Part 3. Vocabulary and Grammar

Read the text and choose the correct words to fill in the gaps:

Computer Wizard

Sammy was very excited! The week before he had decided to buy a new computer and he had spent hours in the university computer lab (A1) ... the Internet looking for one that would be perfect for him.

At first he thought he might get a (A2) ... because it would be nice to be able to carry it around with him, but he had changed his mind.

On Tuesday he had ordered his computer online from a well-known (A3) ... and now, three days later, it was here. It was delivered an hour ago, and Sammy was ready to set it up.

He carefully took all the parts out of the box and put them on his computer table. He flicked quickly through the (A4) ... that had come with the computer and then threw it back into the box. He knew he could do this without help from some silly book! He connected his new screen, keyboard and mouse to the USB (A5) ... on the computer. His computer looked great! It didn't have a (A6) ... for recording images, but he'd get one of those later. The big moment had arrived! Sammy sat down, placed the mouse on the mouse (A7) ... and turned on the computer. Nothing happened. 'What could be wrong,' he asked himself. Too bad Sammy hadn't realised then, instead of two days later, that the computer wasn't plugged in!

A1. 1) sending 2) surfing 3) bouncing 4) deleting

A2. 1) laptop 2) printer 3) speaker 4) blog

A3. 1) account 2) address 3) website 4) email

A4. 1) thriller 2) biography 3) dictionary 4) manual

A5. 1) pads 2) drives 3) doors 4) ports

A6. 1) webcam 2) hard drive 3) screen 4) search engine

A7. 1) drive 2) port 3) pad 4) top