

6TH YEAR - SKILLS TEST 1**LISTENING COMPREHENSION****A) You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer (A, B or C)**

- 1) You hear a man talking on the local radio station. What are you listening to?
 - a) A travel programme
 - b) An advertisement
 - c) An economics programme

- 2) You hear a TV chat show host talking about someone called George Grosvenor. What is George Grosvenor?
 - a) A politician
 - b) A farmer
 - c) A fisherman

- 3) You hear a man and a woman talking. Where are they?
 - a) In a film studio
 - b) In a radio studio
 - c) In a TV studio

- 4) You hear a doctor talking to a patient. How does the patient feel?
 - a) Depressed
 - b) Tired
 - c) In pain

- 5) You hear a news item about a woman called Mrs Turner. What is she supposed to do?
 - a) Pay £58 a week rent
 - b) Pay 15 pence a week to the judge
 - c) Pay the Borough Council money

- 6) You hear a young man talking. What is he?
 - a) A parent
 - b) A student
 - c) A teacher

- 7) You hear a short news item about a cancelled theatre performance. What is the theatre going to do?
 - a) Put on an additional performance
 - b) Cancel all matinees
 - c) Change the dates for afternoon performance

- 8) You hear a woman talking on the telephone. Who is she talking to?
 - a) A lawyer
 - b) A secretary
 - c) A builder

READING COMPREHENSION

ENTER MRS WIN-A-LOT

Introducing the undisputed queen of competitions

Outside Rita Smallburn's home is parked a sparkling blue Renault Clio. Mrs Smallburn won it. It is the fifth car she has won. Inside her sitting room are a video, television, compact disc system, three-piece suite, canteen of cutlery, decanter and glasses, silverware, Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble and an enormous bottle of champagne: all prizes.

In her kitchen are a dishwasher, microwave, French saucepan set, toaster, coffee maker, electric carving knife, kettle, can opener and iron: more prizes.

In fact there is virtually nothing in Mrs Smallburn's entire house, apart from her dog, which she hasn't won. She did not actually win the house she and her family live in, but seven years ago she won another one worth £50,000 which she sold two years later for £100,000. For the last sixteen years she has been the 'Queen of Competitions' or 'compers' as they are known in the trade. Locally she is known as Mrs Win-a-lot.

Since she gave up her job as a geography teacher sixteen years ago, Mrs Smallburn

believes she has become much more skilled at winning competitions. 'I expect to win between twenty and forty per cent of the competitions I enter,' she says. 'But my winnings could vary year by year. One year I might win £3,000. The next it could be £100,000.' All her earnings are tax-free.

She enters only about twelve competitions a month now, down from a peak of about fifty when she was younger. Nowadays she is busy running a consultancy in which she shares her competition winning skills with others who would like to achieve success, but the postman's arrival is still a thrill. If her family wants something, she will try to win it. At the moment she is competing for a fax machine. She wouldn't dream of buying anything.

It is an odd life, though Mrs Smallburn denies it is an obsession. 'It's more like an extreme enthusiasm,' she says. To work, the thrill must be in the winning rather than the prizes. The disadvantage is the lack of freedom to buy what you choose. The dog is not allowed to have his favourite brand of pet food. He has to be content with a year's supply of another brand Mrs Smallburn won.

Choose the correct alternative to answer the following questions

- 1) Which of the following is something that Mrs Smallburn did not win in competitions?
 - a) A house
 - b) The house where the family live
 - c) Money and goods to the value of £3000
 - d) Five cars
- 2) Mrs Smallburn used to
 - a) Win more money than she does now
 - b) Work as a geography teacher
 - c) Be better at winning competitions than she is now
 - d) Pay less tax than she does now
- 3) How does Mrs Smallburn spend most of her time now?
 - a) Teaching geography
 - b) Entering competitions
 - c) Working in her own company
 - d) Looking after her family
- 4) Mrs Smallburn does not
 - a) Want to buy a fax machine
 - b) Want to win a fax machine
 - c) Look forward to the postman coming
 - d) Try to win things her family want
- 5) What is Mrs Smallburn's attitude to entering competitions?
 - a) She is obsessed with it
 - b) She is very keen on it
 - c) She is disappointed with the things she wins
 - d) She thinks it is a strange way to earn a living
- 6) The writer of the text thinks Mrs Smallburn's "extreme enthusiasm" is the result of
 - a) The excellent prizes she has won
 - b) The feeling she gets from winning
 - c) Not being free to buy what she wants
 - d) An obsession
- 7) The article is intended to
 - a) Shock the reader
 - b) Annoy the reader
 - c) Entertain the reader
 - d) Make the reader feel sad