SECTION 2

Read the text below about the moon and answer the questions 7 - 12.
Choose A. B. C or D. Mark your answers on your answer sheet.

THE LUNAR EFFECT

The moon has always seemed mysterious to mankind. Almost every civilisation has its own stories of the moon, and most of these mention the Idea that it influences human behaviour. As the moon travels around the Earth, it reflects light in different ways, and this makes its shape look different. These changes in shape are called the phases' of the moon. Since ancient times, people have believed that these different phases control changes in people's moods and feelings; it is not by chance that the word 'lunacy', meaning crazy behaviour, was formed from the Latin word for the goddess of the moon, 'Luna'. The same word also gives us the modern word 'lunar', meaning related to the moon.

In particular, many cultures believed that the full moon, when the moon is at its biggest and brightest, brought out a 'bad side' in people and encouraged them to do crazy or terrible things. This is known as the 'lunar lunacy effect'. The ancient Greeks even tried to explain this scientifically. As they were aware that the different phases of the moon affected the movement of the ocean. It seemed a natural conclusion that the human body, which they knew was made up of around sixty-five percent water, would also be affected by its power. The belief that the full moon was a time for crimes and other bad things to happen also became connected to stories of human beings who were able to turn into wolves. According to the stories, these creatures, known as werewolves, transformed whenever there was a full moon, and ran around the countryside destroying anything they found. Although the earliest stories of this kind came from ancient Rome, belief in werewolves was especially strong during the Middle Ages, when mysterious crimes were often explained away as being the work of such creatures.

Now that mankind better understands science and the universe, many of these beliefs have been forgotten. However, even today, the idea of lunar lunacy continues to survive in various forms. Many people still believe that crime rates, traffic accidents and even animal attacks all increase on nights with a full moon, even though research proves that they do not. Some claim that those with medical conditions suffer more on these nights, and that many patients behave unusually.

Some researchers believe that, before human beings began to use curtains and artificial lighting at home, the phases of the moon would indeed have affected us. Studies on animal behaviour have shown that many creatures change their activities depending on how big the moon is; some small animals feel less safe in

LIVEWORKSHEETS

its bright light, for example, and stay closer to their homes. So, lunar lunacy, some argue, may be something left over from our prehistoric past, when mankind slept outdoors. On nights of a full moon, the brighter light would result in poor quality sleep or keep people awake altogether, leaving our ancestors as rude and bad-tempered the next morning as any modern-day individual who hasn't had enough sleep.

---

7. Many ancient societies believed that ...

A. all crimes happened during a full moon.
B. the phases of the moon affected people's behaviour.
C. they should avoid looking at the full moon.
D. the moon had its own moods and feelings.

8. What does the term 'lunar lunacy' mean?

A. the different phases of the moon
B. the movement of the moon around the Earth
C. the goddess of the moon
D. crazy behaviour related to the moon

9. The ancient Greeks made a connection between the sea and the human body because ...

A. they believed that bodies took water from the sea.
B. both contain large amounts of water.
C. they wanted to explain the way the sea moved.
D. both are related to movement.

10. What does the writer say about werewolves?

A. The first stories about them existed in ancient Rome.
B. They were seen in the Middle Ages.
C. They were responsible for many unsolved crimes.
D. People didn't believe in them until recent years.

11. According to the third paragraph, during a full moon ...

A. physical injuries do not increase, but mental problems do.
B. accidents are more likely to happen
C. there is no increase in the number of crimes committed.
D. there are a greater number of animal attacks.

12. What did researchers discover by watching animals at night?

A. Most animals don't like bright light because it hurts their eyes.
B. No animals go outside during the full moon.
C. When there is less light, many animals act unusually.
D. Some animals change their behaviour when the moon is brighter.

LIVEWORKSHEETS