

- 1 For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

My writing day

A young writer describes his daily routine

Most writers have (0)their..... own rules about how they work, and I'm no different. My alarm goes (1) at 5.00 am, I shower to wake myself up before heading to the office five minutes away. On my way, I buy a cup of coffee and I'm normally ready to begin writing at 5.30. (2) than write for a fixed amount of time, I aim to produce a page of writing every day. It might take 20 minutes, but frequently it's much longer before I finally get (3) with my proper job. I'm a lawyer, (4) to be honest, I've never really enjoyed it. I see it (5) a step in the right direction because (6) is so much wasted time around the office that I get opportunities to write I wouldn't normally have. My job also gives me the discipline necessary (7) writing, so I should be grateful to it for that (8) least.

2

- 0 He doesn't like tennis as much as football.

MORE

He likes football more than tennis.

- 1 Food is often cheaper in supermarkets than in small shops.

LESS

Often, food in supermarkets
..... in small shops.

- 2 I'm the least musical person I know.

ANYONE

I don't
me.

- 3 His confidence is higher than it was at the start of the course.

NERVOUS

He doesn't seem
..... he did at the start of the course.

- 4 That was the most boring speech I have ever heard.

NEVER

I have
boring speech in my life.

- 5 It is easier to travel around the city by bicycle than by bus or car.

ONE

Going by bicycle is
..... ways to travel round the city.

- 6 My old laptop cost half the price of my new one.

TWICE

My new laptop has
..... my old one.

- 1 Sam stopped playing football when he left school.
USED
Sam a lot when he was at school.
- 2 I went abroad for the first time when I started this job.
NEVER
I abroad before I started this job.
- 3 Andrea and Silvio have been close friends since university.
WHEN
Andrea and Silvio's friendship
students.
- 4 Who told you that the schedule had changed?
KNOW
How the changes to the schedule?
- 5 The company went out of business after months of losses.
LOSING
The company went out of business because it
..... for months.
- 6 I was too late to buy any tickets for the film.
ALREADY
The box office all the tickets by the
time I got to the cinema.

3

Text

Mars update

Progress test 2

How our knowledge of the Red Planet is changing fast

Mars, the second smallest planet in the solar system, is commonly known as the 'Red Planet', thanks to the iron oxide covering its surface (this is in fact rust, the same material you see covering a piece of iron or steel exposed to air and water). (1) And although Mars has a thinner atmosphere and its surface is covered with similar features to those on the Moon, there are many other features present – volcanoes, valleys, deserts and even polar ice – found here on Earth.

Among the more well-known features found on Mars is Olympus Mons, one of the highest mountains in the solar system, and the Valles Marineris, one of the deepest valleys. (2) Phobos and Deimos, the two Martian moons, are small and strangely shaped and may be made up of the remains of this impact.

Before the first spacecraft, Mariner 4, reached Mars in 1965, there was a continuing debate about the existence of water on its surface. In the 18th century, long, straight lines seen by telescope were said by some to be canals full of water, perhaps constructed by the planet's Martian residents. (3) Could they be continents, surrounded by seas?

Although the Martian canals were later found to be optical illusions, visiting spacecraft found that Mars did indeed once have surface water. (4) The Mars rover Spirit detected water molecules in March 2007, and the Phoenix mission discovered water ice in 2008.

There have been up to three spacecraft orbiting Mars – the Mars Odyssey, Express and Reconnaissance Orbiter. (5) A further two are operating on the planet's surface – Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity and the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity. Non-operational spacecraft also litter the surface, such as the MER-A Spirit and the 2008 Phoenix lander.

In terms of its size in the sky, only Jupiter, Venus, the Moon and the Sun appear bigger to us, and are visible with the naked eye. (6) Because of the effect of the Earth's atmosphere, normal telescopes can only really see the larger features of the surface like giant craters when Earth and Mars are closest. No matter how powerful, Mars won't look anything like images you see in the magazines.

③ Missing Sentences

- A** One, the giant Borealis basin in the northern half of Mars, covers 40% of the surface and could be the result of the planet being hit by a huge meteorite.
- B** It was observations by the last of these that revealed possible flowing water during the warmer months.
- C** One surprise is the strange pale yellow-pink sky, so different to the blue we are all used to seeing.
- D** Its orbit around the Sun, the speed at which it spins, and the angle at which it turns, produce seasons which are similar to our own.
- E** More recently, observations of light and dark shapes in the polar regions seemed to suggest land.
- F** However, many new stargazers are disappointed by their first view of it through a telescope.
- G** Seven years ago, the analysis of highly sophisticated radar data appeared to confirm its presence.

- 4 For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Invasion of the snails

The US state of Florida is fighting an (0)invasion..... **INVADE**
of gigantic snails! Over 1,000 of the huge molluscs are
being trapped weekly in the area around Miami. The
(1) African land snail, which can **MASS**
grow to an (2) size – sometimes as **EXCEPTION**
big as a rat – represents a (3) danger **CONSIDER**
to local plant life. Experts met last week in Gainesville,
Florida, for the Giant African Land Snail Science
Symposium, to try and discover the most
(4) ways to eliminate the snails **SUCCEED**
(5) **SAFE**
A spokesperson said investigators were attempting
to learn where the snails had come from originally,
though an (6) pet owner is the main **RESPONSE**
suspect. Scientists are (7) that **CONCERN**
Florida will experience the same problems as some
Caribbean countries, where snails crossing the roads
cause accidents and make sidewalks covered in slime
(8) to walk on. **DANGER**

- 5 You are going to read an article about surfing. For questions 1–10, choose from the paragraphs (A–D). The paragraphs may be chosen more than once.

Which paragraph mentions

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 an important technical development? | ☐ |
| 2 the way people's roles have changed? | ☐ |
| 3 difficulties encountered by surfers? | ☐ |
| 4 problems of cultural differences? | ☐ |
| 5 an unexpected piece of luck? | ☐ |
| 6 the single-minded attitude of surfers? | ☐ |
| 7 the limited number of places left unsurfed? | ☐ |
| 8 a change of plan? | ☐ |
| 9 a reduction in risk? | ☐ |
| 10 the influence of the media on surfing? | ☐ |

5

Reading Material (A B C D)

The rise of the surfer

How surfing became a global business success.

A The only thing a surfer is really interested in is how good the waves are. This quest for perfection has led to the discovery of many once-quiet beaches which nowadays find themselves packed with tourists. Today's surfers book online and enjoy their experience at 'surf camps' – places that have removed any element of danger from travelling to remote areas, places previously known only to a few brave pioneers. No matter how far from civilisation a surf camp might be, though, a pioneer will probably have been there first. These are people who will camp out in the most extreme environments, ignoring insects, snakes and natural disasters for months at a time just to enjoy the waves alone.

B All this began in the 1970s, driven by exciting improvements in surfboard design. They became smaller and lighter, which made them easier to transport. Newer and better waves were being tracked down around the globe by a small army of determined young men and women. Naturally, some of them had cameras with them, and the photos they took and the films they made encouraged others to follow in their footsteps. The more business-minded sold pictures and stories to magazines and the surf world exploded. Thousands of keen young surfers boarded planes to try and find the next undiscovered surfing paradise.

C By the 1980s, the surf package tour had arrived on the scene. Those early surf pioneers had become tour operators and surf camp guides, operating in the same places they had themselves discovered. The Maldives became a tourist destination after one adventurous surfer was stuck there in 1973 while on his way to South Africa. He had found a small island, where perfect waves crashed on perfect beaches and where there were no other surfers to spoil the view. He abandoned his South Africa trip and settled down to enjoy the clear blue water almost entirely on his own for years afterwards.

D The Maldives are now a permanent fixture on the surf calendar, just like a host of other camps around the Indian and Pacific Oceans. By the new millennium, the travel market for surfers was part of mainstream tourism. Previously isolated communities, who just happened to live with some of the best waves on the planet, are confronted with surf boats, surf camps and young people who are sometimes more interested in catching the next wave than in local customs and traditions. There is barely anywhere left in the world where small but determined bands of surfers are not making the first steps in establishing a local surf business. Whatever their motives though, everyone who surfs an exotic beach should be grateful to these intrepid pioneers.

7 Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word in bold at the end of the sentence.

- 0 I love the huge windows in your house. They make it so light and airy. **AIR**
- 1 Thank you for such a good talk. It was both and entertaining. **INFORM**
- 2 This year's autumn range includes a variety of coats and scarves. **WONDER; COLOUR**
- 3 Mrs Naylor is retiring today after 25 years of service to the company. **EXCEPTION**
- 4 Your essay is but, with a little more research, it could have been much better. **SATISFY**
- 5 This is one of the more parts of the city to live in, with its good transport links. **ATTRACT**
- 6 The telecoms sector is increasingly as new firms continue to enter the market. **COMPETE**
- 7 I really enjoy golf, but the nearest club is so They rarely accept new members. **EXCLUDE**