

Reading (1 hour 15 minutes)

You are going to read an article about a man who works as a professional shopper. Choose from the list **A–H** the sentence which best summarises each part (**1–6**) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

- A** Bryan successfully avoids some of the problems that shoppers encounter.
- B** Bryan's success may be related to a recognised trend.
- C** Bryan's experience allows him to predict bargains.
- D** Bryan makes his terms and conditions clear.
- E** Bryan's initial success was not anticipated.
- F** Bryan's clients are offered special treatment in shops.
- G** Bryan's strategy is to provide a flexible service.
- H** Bryan feels fortunate that he is able to combine work with pleasure.

THE GOOD BUY MAN

So, you don't want to get your toes crushed in the summer sales? Michele Dalton meets a man who'll do your shopping for you.

0

H

Bryan Bonaparte is that rare find – a man who loves shopping. Indeed, he loves it so much that he's set up an agency to provide a shopping service for those people who don't share his enthusiasm. 'I get a real buzz out of shopping,' admits Bryan. 'It's a challenge to track down what people want and to find new and interesting things on their behalf. People say to me, "I can't believe you enjoy doing this", but I do. And it's great to get paid for it as well.'

1

Bryan's agency, called Ace, started in a small way one Christmas. It was meant to be just a seasonal thing, but it turned out to be so successful that he carried on throughout the year. It seems there are always gifts to buy for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and retirements.

2

A survey published in the *London Evening News* last year found that many people are getting increasingly depressed at the prospect of shopping, and this may go some way to explaining Bryan's success. The survey pinpointed crowds, bad weather, choosing the right present and carrying heavy bags as stress triggers.

3

Planning a shopping trip with military precision is Bryan's solution. 'A lot of people go shopping, especially during the sales, with no idea what

they are looking for,' he explains. 'It's no wonder they find wandering around the stores frustrating and exhausting.'

4

The shopping stretch covered by Ace runs through most of London's West End shopping districts. Bryan, or another member of his team, is happy to take anyone shopping within this area or to visit stores on their behalf, delivering goods to clients' homes or offices at a convenient time, including evenings and weekends. If you don't actually know what you want, Ace will make suggestions, buy the items, then return to the shops to exchange them if you are not completely satisfied.

5

A flat charge of £15 per hour applies to either service. Clients with a list of requests are given a quote based on the amount of time involved. The only thing Bryan won't do is buy food. For sales shopping, customers need to be specific about size, colour, style and designer labels. Details about the normal price and the discount that clients want are required, and Bryan warns that shops generally won't exchange items bought in sales.

6

Bryan's specialist knowledge means that clients usually get a good deal. 'I've come to know how long the sales will run for, the stock that will be carried and whether old stock will be brought back in at sale time. If I know the store will reduce prices after a month, then I'll hang on before buying. Sometimes, prices can be slashed by up to 70% a few days before the sale ends. With Bryan to guide you, will shopping ever be the same again?

The Ballet Sculptor

Delicate figures ready to begin a dance or caught in mid-flight – these images dominate the work of sculptor Suzy Jordan

Young sculptor Suzy Jordan is fast developing an international reputation for her beautifully-crafted figures which are made from a mixture of clay and metal. People love dancers, particularly ballet dancers, and Suzy has a fascination for them too. 'I used to long to be a dancer when I was younger,' she says. 'There's something amazing about all those graceful movements that, unknown to the audience, can be so painful for the dancers. I'm glad I didn't go in for it, but just watching them gives me so many ideas.'

Suzy has been in touch with some leading ballet companies to see if they'll allow her to sit and draw their dancers during rehearsal time. Her dream is to join forces with them, do a series of life-size sculptures and then hold an exhibition in the foyer of the theatre where the dancers perform.

Most of her sculpture is of figures. 'If I get the chance to sculpt from life, it's really great because I can work more quickly and I'm not guessing shapes or turning to reference books,' she told us. But most of her work has to be done from drawings. After graduating from Art School, Suzy taught drawing for a number of years before setting up as a sculptor, so at least she has the necessary skills.

Most of Suzy's works are individually commissioned and one piece can take as long as four or five months to complete. All of the work is done in a small shed in the garden of her family home in the country. This tin space, about 3 square metres, contains her main **worktop**, plus all her other gear. Suzy uses terracotta clay to form

her sculptures and applies a mixture of lacquer and crushed metal powder, usually bronze, on top. This makes her pieces less expensive than solid bronze figures would be. She then adds a layer of resin or wax to give her work an aged look.

One of Suzy's biggest commissions came from a school in Sweden. They wanted three specially-designed life-size figures to suspend from the ceiling in their gymnasium. Hard to imagine how she did it, but each one was made in her garden shed. They had to be made of plaster so that they wouldn't be too heavy to hang up. Suzy travelled to Sweden with the sculptures to help direct their installation. One of the drawbacks of working to commissions rather than on mass produced pieces is having to work out what sort of price to charge. 'I used to be such a softie,' she confides. 'If someone fell in love with something I'd made, I'd accept a lower offer or let them pay for it in instalments, just so that it went to a good home. But I've learnt not to do that anymore.'

Suzy's work starts at around £100 for the smallest figures, but large sculptures can cost as much as £3000 each. But as she doesn't make copies of her work, each person has an original, so they must be worth having as an investment. As she explains, 'All artists want some kind of recognition for their work. I don't think many of us do it for the money. I have a friend who says she can't wait to see my work in ten years and see how it's progressed. I'm very lucky to be doing the sort of work where that kind of progression shows.'

- 7 How does Suzy feel about dancers?
- A inspired by the way they move
 - B upset by how much they suffer
 - C sad that she didn't train to be one
 - D impressed by how they react to audiences
- 8 Suzy has contacted certain ballet companies because she'd like to
- A find a job in a theatre.
 - B sell sculptures to them.
 - C be invited to performances.
 - D co-operate in a joint project.
- 9 Why would Suzy prefer not to work from drawings?
- A She's not good at drawing.
 - B Books advise against it.
 - C It takes a long time to do.
 - D She'd like to develop new skills.
- 10 What is a 'worktop' (line 29)?
- A a type of building
 - B a piece of equipment
 - C a surface to work on
 - D an article of clothing
- 11 Why does Suzy not make her figures wholly from metal?
- A They would look too new.
 - B They would cost too much.
 - C It would make them too heavy.
 - D It would require more space.
- 12 What does 'it' in line 39 refer to?
- A producing the figures
 - B designing the figures
 - C delivering the figures
 - D hanging the figures
- 13 Why has Suzy's attitude towards her work changed?
- A She now produces larger quantities.
 - B She now only works to commission.
 - C She no longer has problems selling it.
 - D She has become more businesslike.
- 14 What does Suzy find satisfying about her work?
- A Each piece is unique.
 - B She makes a good living.
 - C Her work is rising in value.
 - D People appreciate what she does.

Tip Strip

Another task in Part 3 asks you to insert paragraphs into an article.

- Read through the base text for general understanding.
- Read the text around each gap carefully. Look at the whole paragraph, before and after the gap.
- Read paragraphs A–H. Check for topic and language links with paragraphs in the base text.
- Reread the text and the paragraphs to check that it makes sense.

Paragraph B talks about 'another such danger'. Which paragraph in the base text talks about dangerous things?

Paragraph D begins with 'But'. It is making a contrast with something in the previous piece of text. Which paragraph in the base text tells us something about money?

Paragraph G talks about 'people' and their reaction to Adam's job. Which paragraph in the base text explains why this happens? It uses a pronoun instead of 'people'.

- A** He makes a good living out of it too. Adam can collect anything from 1,000 to 2,000 balls during a day's diving. A lot of them are good quality with hardly a mark on them and can be sold to professional golfing shops, which in turn sell them back to golfers.
- B** Another such danger is weed. The water in the lakes tends to be stagnant and so plant matter tends to build up very quickly. A diver can easily get tangled up, therefore. Adam is well-aware of the danger and, as a professional, knows better than to take unnecessary chances.
- C** Another thing to look out for is golf balls themselves. 'I usually dive while play is going on and quite often I can be in a lake when balls are landing in it,' says Adam. 'Getting hit by one of those things would be nobody's idea of a joke.'
- D** But Adam wouldn't want us to get the impression that it's easy money. 'I don't want kids thinking that they can earn extra pocket money by doing this,' he insists. 'It is dangerous, dirty, cold and smelly.'
- E** Apart from that, Adam has few regrets about his decision. Indeed, he has become more involved in the world of golf than he bargained for.
- F** On another occasion, when he was covered in weed, he surfaced just behind some poor unsuspecting golfer and yelled 'Boo!' The poor man apparently went very white and no one has seen him at the golf club since.
- G** As a result, Adam has become something of a celebrity on the golf courses of southern England – as a frogman. 'When I tell people what I do, they just fall about laughing,' he says.
- H** It didn't take him long to realise, however, that although he was a natural in the water, he was quite out of his depth on the green. He had no future as a golfer.

PART 4

You are going to read some interviews with women who have unusual jobs. For Questions 21–35, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

- A Dina Dorset
- B Angela Bell
- C Claire Dorn
- D Dolly Masons

Which interview is with someone who

- works part-time?
- had a better salary in an earlier job?
- cannot make friends at work?
- will get a university qualification?
- has to pretend she is always happy?
- writes to her customers?
- meets her customers socially?
- organises activities for older people?
- was promoted at work?
- does not like to use her voice?
- has a job that affects her health?
- had an earlier job as a teacher?
- thinks attitudes towards her work have changed?
- has the job she had always wanted?
- considers work more important than family?
- has responsibility for quality control?

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Women in unusual jobs

Dina Dorset

is a disc jockey in a nightclub in London. A few years ago she thought her future was in tennis. 'For a while I trained promising young players on a full-time basis, but one day a neighbour who was a radio producer took me down to his radio station and I became involved in the music scene,' she says. There are lots of late nights for Dina but surprisingly the job doesn't offer her much in the way of a social life. 'I don't have any real contact with the large numbers of people I meet,' she says. She particularly likes the fact that she now only works four hours a day. The one thing I resent is having to appear cheerful all the time even when I feel down,' she says. She hopes to be able to produce her own records one day but she has given up her ambition of going to college. 'You can't do everything in life,' she says.

Angela Bell

is a clown, she paints her face white and wears funny clothes to entertain people. She decided clowning was the job she wanted after seeing a clown show. 'I said that was it. It involved no talking, and that suited me down to the ground,' she says. She soon realised that women only introduced the act and were on stage for a few minutes because it was considered a job for men. 'That is changing now,' she says. 'But from the beginning I decided to call myself Chris on the programmes instead of Angela so that the audience don't know if I'm a man or a woman.' Angela had to choose between family and work. 'I liked my work too much to think of children,' she says, 'and I have no regrets.' She says the secret of her success is that she is a very happy person, which is what you need to be a good clown.

Claire Dorn

works on a cruise liner, a floating luxury hotel which is her home for eight months of the year. She is the ship's secretary and has responsibility for all information customers may need while on board, as well as acting as secretary to the captain. 'He is very demanding but I have no complaints from him,' she says. Losing touch with the real world for so long is no problem because the ship's officers can take advantage of the activities provided for the entertainment of passengers. 'I've made many lasting friendships here,' she says, 'we get customers of all ages and backgrounds.' Her previous work experience as a Personal Assistant to a manager prepared her for the demands of this job. It was better paid than her present job but she gave it up because she had always liked the idea of working on a ship. 'The only disadvantage is that there are constant time changes when you go round the world and it makes you feel physically unwell,' she says.

Dolly Masons

has worked in a chocolate factory for the past twenty years. 'I was nearly sixteen when I joined,' she says. 'My parents both worked here at the time, so it had become a kind of family tradition. My first job was as an assistant and I've since climbed the ladder to become customer relations manager.' Her present job involves a number of responsibilities, from performing taste tests for all chocolates to ensure their flavour is the same, to organising events for retired employees, including parties and excursions to the seaside. 'I like to have variety in my job,' she says, 'any comments from customers will be forwarded to me to deal with. Of course, I'll never meet them personally but they will all get a written response from me.' She admits that at the moment she is finding it difficult to concentrate on the degree course in marketing she started last year, but is confident she will finish it by June.