

Read the following text about a method of foreign language learning and answer the 15 questions.

## **LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

### **Paragraph 1**

Tandem language learning is a new and exciting method of language learning. It involves two partners who are, most preferably, native speakers of different languages. Both speakers want to learn a foreign language and will do so by helping each other. The word 'tandem' itself means a bicycle with two bicycle seats for two people to sit on, one behind the other. Therefore, one can easily understand how the method got its name.

### **Paragraph 2**

Tandem learning can vary. The language-partners can meet either in person or learn by email, phone or other media. Learning can be supported by various materials and methods: worksheets, textbooks or simply informal conversation. The classic style in Tandem learning, though, is that half the time is given to one partner, the other half to the other partner. For example, a Greek and an English speaker usually can talk half an hour in Greek and afterwards half an hour in English.

### **Paragraph 3**

The "language learning by exchange" approach first appeared in 19<sup>th</sup> century England, in what was called the "mutual system", where pupils were helping each other in order to help the teacher with his or her work. The Tandem method, though, appeared much later on, in 1971, in connection with the "audio-visual method" and since then has developed up to the present day, taking different forms as time went by.

### **Paragraph 4**

Tandem learning is an approach suitable for every age group, from children to senior citizens. It can be used at all levels of education; that is to say, preschool, elementary school, secondary school and even university. Research has also shown that it is one of the most successful methods of language learning for adults, particularly in companies.

### **Paragraph 5**

At first, many people questioned this method's success when compared to traditional language learning methods. However, research over the years has shown that this method greatly helps to improve listening and speaking skills. The reason why is that the two language partners speak, as well as listen to each other much more than they would in a traditional class. Another benefit gained through the Tandem method is cultural understanding, as speakers get to learn about the culture of other countries through conversation. Some speakers have even noticed that they seem to understand their native language more after Tandem sessions, as they start to think more about it.

Source: *Preparing for Trinity ISE I*

### Questions 1-5

The text has five paragraphs (1-5). Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-F below and write the letter (A-F) on the lines below. There is one title that you don't need.

- 1. Paragraph 1
- 2. Paragraph 2
- 3. Paragraph 3
- 4. Paragraph 4
- 5. Paragraph 5

- A Definition of the method
- B Suitable candidates for the method
- C Origins and history of the method
- D Advantages and disadvantages of the method
- E Disadvantages of the method
- F General background information of the method

### Questions 6-10

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the text. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the squares below (in alphabetical order).

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

- A Tandem learning was first used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- B Tandem learning was immediately accepted when first used.
- C The two partners don't need to be face to face in order to learn.
- D The two partners can practise languages in which they are not native speakers.
- E It is possible to gain more inside knowledge of how one's own language works through Tandem language learning.
- F Employees may successfully use Tandem language learning.
- G Tandem language learning can also help with reading and writing.
- H Partners should participate in equal turns when learning.

### Questions 11-15

Complete sentences 11-15 with a word, phrase or number from the text (maximum three words). Write the word, phrase or number in the space provided.

- 11. The main idea behind Tandem language learning is that two speakers are \_\_\_\_\_ to learn a foreign language.
- 12. Speakers may choose to simply have a talk, or this may \_\_\_\_\_ by extra work.
- 13. Tandem language learning has not remained the same over years: it \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14. Learning by Tandem is \_\_\_\_\_ anyone; there are no age restrictions.
- 15. By getting to know the other speaker and where he/she comes from, one gains \_\_\_\_\_.