Reading and Use of English (1 hour 30 minutes)

PART 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

0 **A** interfering **B** upsetting **C** damaging **D** intruding

0	A	B	C	D

Taking photographs ruins the memory, research finds

Our obsession with recording every detail of our happiest moments could be 0_____ our ability to remember them, according to new research.

Dr Linda Henkel, from Fairfield University, Connecticut, described this as the 'photo-taking impairment effect'. She said, 'People often whip out their cameras almost mindlessly to 1_____ a moment, to the point that they are missing what is happening 2_____ in front of them. When people rely on technology to remember for them – 3_____ on the camera to record the event and thus not needing to 4_____ to it fully themselves – it can have a negative 5_____ on how well they remember their experiences.'

In Dr Henkel's experiment, a group of university students were 6_____ on a tour of a museum and asked to either photograph or try to remember objects on display. The next day each student's memory was tested. The results showed that people were less 7_____ in recognizing the objects they had photographed 8_____ with those they had only looked at.

1	**A** seize	**B** grasp	**C** capture	**D** snatch
2	**A** quite	**B** right	**C** merely	**D** barely
3	**A** counting	**B** settling	**C** assuming	**D** swearing
4	**A** engage	**B** apply	**C** attend	**D** dedicate
5	**A** result	**B** aspect	**C** extent	**D** impact
6	**A** steered	**B** run	**C** led	**D** conveyed
7	**A** accurate	**B** faithful	**C** exact	**D** factual
8	**A** measured	**B** compared	**C** matched	**D** confronted

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 2

For questions 9–16, 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).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS *on the separate answer sheet.*

Example:

0	T	O																

On the hunt for the best young female entrepreneurs

Founded in 1972, the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman Award is celebrated in 27 countries. Veuve Clicquot has now introduced a new award 0 _____ complement its Business Woman of the Year category. Called The New Generation Award, 9 _____ recognizes the best young female talent across business and corporate life.

The first winner of the award, Kathryn Parsons, 10 _____ innovative start-up company, Decoded, teaches people to code in a day, has joined the judging panel to help find this year's winner. 'The importance of these awards cannot 11 _____ overestimated,' she says. 'Women need role models that prove to 12 _____ that they can do it, too.'

The New Generation Award is open to entrepreneurial businesswomen 13 _____ the ages of 25 and 35. They can run 14 _____ own businesses or hail from corporate life. 'This award isn't about how much money you've made or how long you've been in business, it's about recognizing young women 15 _____ a mission and a vision,' says Parsons. 'We want to meet women who are working to 16 _____ the world a better place.'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 3

For questions 17–24, 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).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

0	R	E	S	I	G	N	A	T	I	O	N								

EXIT INTERVIEWS

If you are thinking of leaving your job, you may think that handing in your letter of 0 _____ is the end of the matter. But an increasing number of companies now conduct 'exit interviews' with staff. RESIGN

For the employee, an exit interview may feel like an ideal opportunity to rant and rave about every little 17 _____ that has troubled them since they got the job. But, 18 _____ in mind that you will probably still need a 19 _____ from these people, it is best to avoid getting angry or 20 _____, and just answer the questions as calmly and with as much 21 _____ as possible. ANNOY / BEAR / REFER / EMOTION / HONEST

For employers, the exit interview is a rare opportunity to gather some valuable information about the way staff perceive the company. Existing employees may not wish to cause 22 _____ to the boss or damage their chances of promotion, so are unlikely to 23 _____ their real feelings about the company. However, someone who has already resigned is more likely to be 24 _____ when giving their opinions. OFFEND / CLOSE / TRUE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 4

For questions 25–30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 I didn't know the way there, so I got lost.
GET
Not _____ there, I got lost.

0	KNOWING HOW TO GET

Write only the missing words IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

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25 I've just noticed that the car has almost run out of petrol.
HARDLY
I've just noticed that _____ left in the car.

26 I didn't know that cars were so expensive in this country.
IDEA
I _____ so much in this country.

27 Don't get depressed because of such a small problem.
LET
It's such a small problem that you shouldn't _____ down.

28 It is reported that he is now recovering in hospital.
RECOVERY
He is reported _____ in hospital now.

29 Laura's teacher says that she doesn't have a serious enough attitude to her work.
SERIOUSLY
Laura doesn't _____ to her teacher.

30 What's confusing you so much?
LOT
What is it that's _____ confusion?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 5

You are going to read a book review. For questions 31–36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The Great Indoors: At Home in the Modern British House
by Ben Highmore

In 1910 the music hall comedian Billy Williams scored his biggest hit with the song *When Father Papered the Parlour*, mocking the incompetence of the amateur home decorator. Fifty years later, comedians Norman Wisdom and Bruce Forsyth were still entertaining millions on the TV show *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* with a similar routine, but the joke was starting to look dated. The success of magazines such as *The Practical Householder* was already proving that, as the 1957 Ideal Home Exhibition proclaimed, 'Do-it-yourself is a home hobby that is here to stay.'

By this stage, Britain had mostly completed its transition from primitive housing conditions, made bearable – for those who could afford it – by servants and handymen, into a world where families looked after themselves in highly serviced environments. Recognisably modern technology, in the form of telephones, televisions and electricity, had become ubiquitous and was to transform domestic living still further in the coming years. The makeover of British homes in the twentieth century is recounted in Ben Highmore's entertaining and informative new book. He takes us on a whirlwind tour of an everyday house, from entrance hall to garden shed, illuminated by extensive reference to oral histories, popular magazines and personal memoirs.

At its centre, though, is the way that our homes have reflected wider social changes. There is the decline of formality, so that living rooms once full of heavy furniture and Victorian knick-knacks are now dominated by television screens and littered with children's toys. There is a growing internationalism in taste. And there is the rise of domestic democracy, with the household radiogram and telephone (located in the hall) now replaced by iPads, laptops and mobiles in virtually every room. Key to that decentralization of the home – and the implied shift of power within it – is the advent of central heating, which gets pride of place as the innovation that allowed the whole house to become accessible at all times of day and night. Telling an unruly child to 'go to your room' no longer seems much of a threat.

Highmore also documents, however, some less successful steps in the onward march of domestic machinery. Whatever happened to the gas-powered fridges we were promised in 1946? Or to the Dishmaster a decade later that promised to do 'a whole day's washing up in just three minutes'? Rather more clear is the reason why a 1902 Teasmade failed to catch on: 'when the alarm clock triggered the switch, a match was struck, lighting a spirit stove under the kettle'. You don't have to be a health and safety fanatic to conclude that a bedroom isn't the ideal place for such a gadget.

Equally disturbing to the modern reader is the pre-war obsession with children getting fresh air. It was a belief so entrenched that even a voice of dissent merely argued that in winter, 'The healthy child only needs about three hours a day in the open air, as long as the day and night nursery windows are always open.' Nowadays, the fresh air obsession has been replaced by irrational fears of horrors outside the home. It's easier to laugh at the foibles of the past, and Highmore doesn't always resist a sense of modern superiority, though, for the most part, he's an engaging and quirky guide, dispensing sociological insights without jargon.

The message is that even the language of the home has changed irrevocably: airing cupboards are going the same way as drawing rooms. As for that Billy Williams song, 'By the 1980s', Highmore writes, 'it would be impossible for anyone to imagine their front room as a "parlour" without seeming deeply old-fashioned.' He's not entirely correct, for there was at least one person who was still employing such terminology. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sold her message with the use of what she called 'the parables of the parlour', which suggests she understood the truth that, despite the catalogue of changes, there is a core that seems consistent. A 1946 edition of Housewife magazine spelt it out: 'men make houses, women make homes'. When you watch a male comedian today doing a routine about his wife's attachment to scatter cushions, it seems worth asking: has the family dynamic really moved a great deal?'

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31 The reviewer's main topic in the first paragraph is

A improvements in home decorating skills.
B how common it was for home decorating to be discussed.
C how unfair descriptions of home decorating used to be.
D a change in attitudes to home decorating.

31

32 In the second paragraph, the reviewer says that the book includes evidence illustrating

A that some British people's homes were transformed more than others.
B the widespread nature of changes that took place in British homes.
C the perceived disadvantages of certain developments in British homes.
D that the roles of certain people in British homes changed enormously.

32

33 In the third paragraph, the reviewer points to a change in

A the extent to which different parts of the house are occupied.
B ideas of which parts of a house should be furnished in a formal way.
C how much time children spend in their own rooms.
D beliefs about what the most pleasant aspect of home life is.

33

34 The reviewer suggests in the fourth paragraph that

A most unsuccessful inventions failed because they were dangerous.
B various unsuccessful inventions failed because they did not work properly.
C some unsuccessful inventions were not advertised appropriately.
D there were unsuccessful inventions which might have been good ideas.

34

35 In the fifth paragraph, the reviewer says that in his book, Highmore

A sometimes focuses on strange ideas that were not very common in the past.
B occasionally applies the standards of today to practices in the past.
C occasionally expresses regret about how some attitudes have changed.
D sometimes includes topics that are not directly relevant to the main topic.

35

36 In the final paragraph, the reviewer suggests that Highmore may be wrong about

A when certain modern attitudes to home life first developed.
B which changes in home life in Britain have been most widely welcomed.
C the extent to which home life in Britain has changed.
D how common terms such as 'airing cupboards' are in modern Britain.

36

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 6

You are going to read four reviews of a documentary series on TV about large companies. For questions 37–40, choose from the reviews A–D. The reviews may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Inside Business

Four reviewers comment on the TV documentary series *Inside Business*, which investigated the workings of a number of large companies

A

The companies that were the focus of each programme in the series *Inside Business* were very diverse in terms of the nature of their business and the way they operated, but between them they demonstrated many of the key features that characterize big organizations in the modern world. Each programme focused mostly on the people at the top. The amount of jargon they used is likely to have been too much for many viewers to contend with, and they may well have given up. If they did stick with the series, however, they will have been left in no doubt as to how complex the business of running large organizations is for those charged with doing so. This was clear from what the interviewees said, but the questioning was not probing enough, and they were not asked to explain or justify the sweeping statements they made.

B

The overwhelming impression given to any viewer who watched all six episodes of *Inside Business* was of the extraordinary pressure that those running modern companies are obliged to operate under. Unless they themselves had experience of working in large companies, however, they are likely to have found some of the interviews bewildering – the questioning was very much of the 'one insider to another' variety and many viewers will have struggled to follow what was being discussed. This aspect detracted somewhat from what was an otherwise compelling insight into the workings of modern companies and may well have caused many viewers to change channels. That's a shame because in general the companies featured in the series illustrated very well the impact of modern management theories on a range of large organizations.

C

You didn't need to know anything about business to be fascinated by the series *Inside Business*, which gave an intriguing picture from the inside of how various household name companies actually operate. The companies chosen made for good television because they all had very individual cultures and ways of operating, and as such could not be said to typify the norm in the world of the modern company. Entertaining as this was, the portrayal of the firms begged all sorts of questions which were not touched on in the interviews. These gave the people in charge a very easy ride indeed, never challenging them to back up their often vague and contentious pronouncements on their approach to leadership. Indeed, the viewer will have been left with the surprising feeling that many large and apparently successful organizations are run by people who enjoy their roles enormously because they avoid the harder aspects of responsibility by delegating them to others.

D

The series *Inside Business* took a serious look at day-to-day life in a modern large company and it wasn't for the casual viewer. The series required some effort to get to grips with the issues covered, in particular in the interviews, which were not really accessible to the lay person and were instead conducted as one expert to another. Having said that, the viewer who did put the effort in was rewarded with an absorbing insight into the workings of these well-known firms. They had each been carefully chosen to be representative of how large companies are structured and function at present, and they had much in common with each other. The main message put across was how adept those in charge have to be in adapting to a constantly changing business world.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Which reviewer

has a different opinion from the others on the choice of companies to focus on in the series? 37

shares reviewer B's opinion of the likelihood of viewers losing interest in the series after a while? 38

takes a different view from the others on the impression given in the series of what it is like to be at the top of a large organization? 39

has a similar view to reviewer C on the questions asked in the interviews in the series? 40

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART 7

You are going to read a newspaper article about a ship carrying goods across the Atlantic ocean. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A–G *the one which fits each gap* (41–46). *There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.*

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The wind-lashed workers who battle the Atlantic in winter

Even at this stormy time of year in Britain, there are thousands of oil workers and fishermen offshore, as well as a scattering of seafarers manning the container ships and tankers that bring us almost everything we need. So it was that in the depths of bitter winter, hoping to learn what modern sailors' lives are like, I joined the Maersk *Pembroke*, a container freighter, on her regular run from Europe to Montreal. She looked so dreadful when I found her in Antwerp that I hoped I had the wrong ship.

41

Trade between Europe and North America is a footnote to the great west–east and north–south runs: companies leave it to older vessels. *Pembroke* is battered and rusty, reeking of diesel and fishy chemicals. She is noisy, her bridge and stairwells patrolled by whistling drafts which rise to howls at sea. Her paintwork is wretched. The Atlantic has stripped her bow back to a rusted steel snarl.

42

It felt like a desperate enterprise on a winter night, as the tide raced us down the Scheldt estuary and spat us out into the North Sea. According to the weather satellites, the Atlantic was storms from coast to coast, two systems meeting in the middle of our course. On the far side, ice awaited. We were behind schedule, the captain desperate for speed. 'Six-metre waves are OK; any bigger you have to slow down or you kill your ship,' he said. 'Maybe we'll be lucky!'

43

Soon enough, we were in the midst of those feared storms. A nightmare in darkness, a north Atlantic storm is like a wild dream by day, a region of racing elements and livid colour, bursting turquoise foam, violent sunlight, and darkening magenta waves. There is little you can do once committed except lash everything down and enjoy what sleep you can before it becomes impossible. *Pembroke* is more than 200m long and weighs more than 38,000 tons, but the swells threw her about like a tin toy.

44

When they hit us squarely, the whole ship reared, groaning and staggering, shuddered by shocking force. We plunged and tottered for three days before there was a lull. But even then, an ordinary day involved unpleasant jobs in extreme conditions. I joined a welding party that descended to the hold: a dripping, tilting cathedral composed of vast tanks of toxins and organophosphates, where a rusted hatch cover defied a cheap grinder blade in a fountain of sparks. As we continued west, the wind thickened with sleet, then snow as the next storm arrived.

45

All was well in that regard and, after the storms, we were relieved to enter the St Lawrence River. The ice was not thick enough to hinder us; we passed Quebec City in a glittering blue dawn and made Montreal after sunset, its downtown towers rising out of the tundra night. Huge trucks came for our containers.

46

But without them and their combined defiance of the elements there could be nothing like what we call 'life' at all. Seafarers are not sentimental, but some are quite romantic. They would like to think we thought of them, particularly when the forecast says storms at sea.

LIVEWORKSHEETS