Read the following text about silent films, and answer the 15 questions.

BEFORE THE "TALKIES"

Paragraph 1

Until the 1920s, the technology to produce films with sound did not really exist. *The Jazz singer*, released in 1927, was the first truly successful sound film. Its success marked a new period in film-making and led to a huge increase in the number of talking pictures, or "talkies" as they would become known. The popularity of silent films suffered badly as a result and it was not long before "talkies" took over completely and silent films disappeared. Today, it is thought that around 70% of all American silent films have been lost forever. And this is a very sad fact indeed.

Paragraph 2

You see, it is too easy to think of silent films as boring and old-fashioned, full of weak acting and bad storylines. The truth is actually very different. Silent films were, in fact, beautiful works of art, as good as any of the talking films of today. For a start, they were not silent at all. If you had lived at the time of silent films, a visit to the cinema would have been a celebration of sound – or music, to be more accurate. Live music almost always formed part of a silent film show. At small-town theatres maybe just a guitar or piano would play, but, at large ones, whole orchestras often performed.

Paragraph 3

True, the acting was very different, but different does not equal bad. The actors were far more dramatic in the way they performed. They made big movements with their bodies and faces, which can look almost silly when compared with today's acting style. But actors could not use words to express meaning so they had to rely on movements. It was a different skill; not silly, but in fact necessary to the telling of the story.

Paragraph 4

And good storytelling was at the heart of silent films. The style of storytelling was just very different from today. In the early years of silent films, theatres would pay storytellers to narrate the stories live in the cinema. However, as films got longer, it made more sense to use intertitles (short pieces of text that appeared on screen between scenes). You had to concentrate hard to follow the story, but was that such a bad thing?

Paragraph 5

To compare silent films with today's ones is not fair. They are just too different. It is still possible to enjoy silent movies if we stop making such comparisons. They are a different art form and they are wonderful in their own right. The 2012 silent film *The Artist* reminded us of this and showed us that, even today, a well-made silent movie can be celebrated and enjoyed.

Source: *Preparing for Trinity ISE I*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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	A live musical experience
B	Recognising the value of silent films
C	Acting without words
D	The end of silent films
E	Telling the silent story
F	The best silent film

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	The writer thinks it is a mistake to compare silent and sound films with one another.
B	The method of acting in silent films was often different from the method now used in sound films.
C	The writer suggests that the acting in silent films was not of a good quality.
D	It is believed that most American silent films have been destroyed.
E	*The Jazz Singer* was the first very successful silent film.
F	The story of early silent movies was often told to the audience by a live speaker in the cinema.
G	In small cinemas, the music for silent films was often performed by orchestras.
H	Live music was usually played at screenings of silent films.

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. Before the 1920s, there wasn't the right kind of _____ to make sound movies.

12. In small cinemas, music for silent films was usually played on _____.

13. Actors moved their _____ a lot in silent movies to express themselves without using words.

14. Intertitles were short pieces of text that were often shown _____ in a silent film to express the story.

15. The writer argues that the silent film is a completely different _____ from the sound film.

LIVEWORKSHEETS