SUMMARY COMPLETION - PRACTICE TASKS

Exercise 1:

New research prompted by the relatively high number of literary families, shows that there may be an inherited element to writing good fiction. Researchers from Yale in the US and Moscow State University in Russia launched the study to see whether there was a scientific reason why well-known writers have produced other writers.

The study analyzed the creative writing of 511 children aged eight to 17 and 489 of their mothers and 326 fathers. All the participants wrote stories on particular themes. The stories were then scored and rated for originality and novelty, plot development and quality, and sophistication and creative use of prior knowledge. The researchers also carried out detailed intelligence tests and analysed how families functioned in the Russian households.

Taking into account intelligence and family background, the researchers then calculated the inherited and the environmental elements of creative writing. They found what they describe as a modest heritability element to creative writing.

Fill each gap in the summary below using a maximum of 2 words.

Creative writing ability may be (1)_____ from parents, according to a new study. Researchers compared (2)_____ written by children and their parents, looking at elements such as originality and use of (3)_____. After conducting intelligence tests and allowing for (4)_____, they concluded that there is a (5)_____ link between genetics and creative writing.

Exercise 2:

The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, were two American brothers, inventors, and aviation pioneers who were credited with inventing and building the world's first successful airplane and making the first controlled, powered and sustained heavier-than-air human flight, on December 17, 1903. In the two years afterward, the brothers developed their flying machine into the first practical fixed-wing aircraft.

The brothers' fundamental breakthrough was their invention of three-axis control, which enabled the pilot to steer the aircraft effectively and to maintain its equilibrium. This method became standard and remains standard on fixed-wing aircraft of all kinds. From the beginning of their aeronautical work, the Wright brothers focused on developing a reliable method of pilot control as the key to solving "the flying problem". This approach differed

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significantly from other experimenters of the time who put more emphasis on developing powerful engines. Using a small homebuilt wind tunnel, the Wrights also collected more accurate data than anyone had before, enabling them to design and build wings and propellers that were more efficient than rival models.

They gained the mechanical skills essential for their success by working for years in their shop with printing presses, bicycles, motors, and other machinery. Their work with bicycles in particular influenced their belief that an unstable vehicle like a flying machine could be controlled and balanced with practice.

Fill each gap in the summary below with a maximum of 2 words.

In 1903, the Wright brothers completed development of the first airplane that was capable of sustaining controlled (1)_____. The key to their success was a system that gave the pilot the means to control and (2)_____ the airplane. This set them apart from other inventors who had focused on building (3)_____. The brothers had previous experience with a wide variety of (4)_____, but it was their work with (5)_____ that had the greatest influence on their ideas.

Exercise 3:

Bilinguals and Personality

Many people believe that bilinguals have two different personalities, one for each of the languages they speak, and that switching between languages makes bilinguals act differently. Although this may seem unbelievable to some, research actually supports this idea.

According to various studies, bilinguals who are also bicultural and are actively involved in both of their cultures, interpret situations differently depending on which language they speak in. Although everyone, monolinguals and bilinguals alike, is able to change the way they feel and interpret events (a phenomenon known as frame-shifting), biculturals do this without realising when switching between languages.

The changes are not only linguistic. As an English-Spanish bicultural myself I do find I act differently depending on which culture I'm immersed in at the time. I'm often aware of the fact that when I speak to other Spanish speakers my voice is slightly louder and I gesticulate more than when I talk to English speakers. Could we then say that bilinguals have two different personalities?

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There is some (1)_____ to show that people who are bilingual exhibit a different (2)_____ depending on which language they are speaking. Some bilinguals also have two (3)_____ cultural identities, meaning that they are able to (4)_____ their behavior effortlessly according to their cultural (5)_____. This may involve changes in (6)_____ of speech or in the use of (7)_____ language.

Choose your answers from the list below:

Noise	Evidence	Volume	Adapt
Persona	Characteristics	Body	Fact
Distinct	Surroundings		

Exercise 4:

From the maze of conflicting statements and heated articles on the subject, three main positions about the potential of camera art emerged. The simplest, entertained by many painters and a section of the public, was that photographs should not be considered 'art' because they were made with a mechanical device and by physical and chemical phenomena instead of by human hand and spirit; to some, camera images seemed to have more in common with fabric produced by machinery in a mill than with handmade creations fired by inspiration. The second widely held view, shared by painters, some photographers, and some critics, was that photographs would be useful to art but should not be considered equal in creativeness to drawing and painting. Lastly, by assuming that the process was comparable to other techniques such as etching and lithography, a fair number of individuals realized that camera images were or could be as significant as handmade works of art and that they might have a positive influence on the arts and on culture in general.

Questions 31–34

*Complete the summary of Paragraph 3 using the list of words, **A–G**, below.*

Write your answers in boxes 31–34 on your answer sheet.

A	inventive	**C**	beneficial	**E**	mixed	**G**	inferior
B	similar	**D**	next	**F**	justified		

Camera art

In the early days of photography, opinions on its future were **31** ....., but three clear views emerged. A large number of artists and ordinary people saw photographs as **32** ..... to paintings because of the way they were produced. Another popular view was that photographs could have a role to play in the art world, despite the photographer being less **33** ..... . Finally, a smaller number of people suspected that the impact of photography on art and society could be **34** ..... .

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Exercise 5:

According to Alan Stern, planetary scientist, the biggest public relations boost for the ISS may come from the privately funded space flight industry. Companies like SpaceX could help NASA and its partners when it comes to resupplying the ISS, as it suggests it can reduce launch costs by two-thirds. Virgin Atlantic's SpaceShipTwoor or Zero2Infinity's high-altitude balloon could also boost the space station's fortunes. They might not come close to the ISS's orbit, yet Stern believes they will revolutionize the way we, the public, see space. Soon everyone will be dreaming of interplanetary travel again, he predicts. More importantly, scientists are already queuing for seats on these low-gravity space-fight services so they can collect data during a few minutes of weightlessness. This demand for low-cost space flight could eventually lead to a service running on a more frequent basis, giving researchers the chance to test their ideas before submitting a proposal for experiments on the ISS. Getting flight experience should help them win a slot on the station, says Stern.

The influence of commercial space flight on the ISS

According to Alan Stern, private space companies could affect the future of the ISS. He believes they could change its image; firstly because sending food and equipment there would be more **36** ..... if a commercial craft were used, and secondly, because commercial flights might make the whole idea of space exploration seem **37** ..... to ordinary people. Another point is that as the demand for space flights increases, there is a chance of them becoming more **38** ..... . And by working on a commercial flight first, scientists would be more **39** ..... if an ISS position came up.

A safe	**B** competitive	**C** flexible	**D** real
E rapid	**F** regular	**G** suitable	**H** economical

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