

TEST 1

Read the texts and questions below. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C or D.

Questions 1-5

One to watch!

Essay by Jessica Bourne, aged 14

I'm a big fan of films featuring the spy James Bond. I've got most of them on DVD. We've recently bought *Quantum of Solace*, in which Daniel Craig plays the part of Bond. I don't know why the film's got that name - but it's a great movie, anyway.

All the actors who've played James Bond have been great, but Daniel Craig, who's made lots of other films, plays the part better than any of them. Even though he doesn't talk very much, I think he's the most perfect actor for the role. He even does a few of the more dangerous things in the film himself, instead of getting someone else to do them. I did wonder sometimes whether he'd be clever enough to defeat the bad people - but I'm not going to tell you the ending! The actress who stars with Craig gives a fantastic performance, too - I loved all the glamorous clothes she wore!

The director probably had a hard job making this Bond film as full of action as earlier ones. But the excitement starts right at the beginning here, with a car chase along a mountain road, and plenty of other thrilling scenes, too - Bond leaping off tall buildings and so on. Unfortunately, I found the story difficult to follow in places, and it also seemed to be over very quickly - it lasted under two hours. I also felt there weren't as many jokes as in the old Bond films. And where was all the ridiculous Bond equipment - the underwater car or exploding watch that everyone laughed at? This is a more serious, darker Bond film, but I still really enjoyed it.

1. What is Jessica trying to do in her essay?
 - A. explain what first attracted her to Bond films
 - B. tell readers about the Bond DVDs she owns
 - C. give a balanced view of a Bond film she has seen
 - D. describe how Daniel Craig got the part of James Bond
2. What can a reader find out from Jessica's essay?
 - A. whether *Quantum of Solace* is her favourite Bond film
 - B. what other films Daniel Craig has made
 - C. which other actors have played James Bond
 - D. whether she thinks Daniel Craig is the best James Bond
3. What does Jessica tell us about Craig in the new Bond film?
 - A. He performs some of the action scenes.
 - B. He wears some stylish clothes.
 - C. He is given a lot of lines to say.
 - D. He looks strong and fit enough to fight the criminals.
4. What is one problem with the film, according to Jessica?
 - A. It seems a bit too long.
 - B. It's sometimes hard to understand what's happening.
 - C. It has too much silly technology in it.
 - D. It has jokes that aren't very funny.
5. Which of these might appear in a magazine review of the new Bond film?
 - A. It's full of excitement, with Bond jumping across rooftops, so don't be disappointed by the slow start.
 - B. The director wanted to move away from the last Bond film and include a bit less action.
 - C. I'm not sure the title tells you much, but be prepared to watch a rather different kind of Bond movie.
 - D. Daniel Craig performed well as James Bond, but the main female star was disappointing.

Questions 6-10

I've practised skateboarding for 18 months now, and I was the youngest person in a street skateboarding competition last year. I spend my free time at my town's new skatepark - I rarely stay at home and watch TV. Before the new skatepark was built this year, the nearest skatepark was in a town 10 km away. Some of my older friends went there, but my mum wouldn't let me go because I wasn't old enough. The only place to skate was on the pavements, but then I fell and injured my arm. I wasn't popular with pedestrians, either, so I stopped! Nowadays, though, I can use the new skatepark in the evenings - it's got huge lights, so you can use it even at night.

We've got a skatepark at our school now, too. It keeps us fit! The school skatepark is dangerous for smaller children like my little brother, though, as the teenage students also use their rollerskates or ride their BMX bikes there. I guess they prefer it because the skatepark in town is pretty busy.

I've always found schoolwork easy, but skateboarding is hard! My favourite trick is jumping over boxes. Doing things like that really makes you concentrate, which is a challenge, but it's something I really enjoy. My older sister works as a skateboard instructor, so one day I'd like to be like her. It's unusual for girls to skate around here, so although I love it, it's a bit lonely. I'd like more girls to join in!

6. In this text Rachel Martin

- A. explains what equipment is needed for skateboarding.
- B. describes the places for skateboarding in her area.
- C. persuades young people to enter skateboarding competitions.
- D. compares skateboarding with other sports.

7. Why was it hard for Rachel to go skateboarding last year?

- A. There wasn't a skatepark near enough to her house.
- B. None of her friends were able to go with her.
- C. She was worried she would hurt herself.
- D. She wasn't allowed to go out in the evenings.

8. What does Rachel say about the skatepark at her school?

- A. It allows younger children to practise their skating.
- B. It takes too many people away from other sports.
- C. It is used for several different activities.
- D. It is more crowded than the skatepark in town.

9. What does Rachel like about skateboarding?

- A. getting the chance to be good at something
- B. having to think carefully
- C. learning new skills from her sister
- D. doing an activity with girls of her own age

10. Which of the following might Rachel write in her diary?

- A. Did another competition today - I won, although I was the youngest. But then I have got two years' experience.
- B. Didn't feel like practising tonight, so stayed in and watched TV instead. That's the fourth time this week!
- C. Was skating on the pavement today when I fell and hurt my ankle. I've done that three times now.
- D. Couldn't use school skatepark today - there were too many bikers. My little brother wanted to play there but it wasn't safe for him.

Questions 11-15

“McDowell Publishing plans to merge with Harvey Media this January”, a spokesman for McDowell Publishing said. The new company will be called McDowell and Harvey Media. The decision comes after both companies experienced their third straight year of *losses*. Both companies have struggled to compete with the world’s largest publishing company, Watson Media Inc., which accounts for about 75 percent of the market. Since Watson Media Inc. was founded by Charles Duvet Jr. in 1999, the company has successfully forced ten other small publishing companies to declare bankruptcy. According to a spokesman from Harvey Media, after the merger is completed, the new company will launch a 3-million-dollar marketing campaign. Jackson Polkins, the famous children’s writer, has already announced he will be leaving Watson Media Inc. to pursue a contract with the new company.

11. The word “*losses*” is closest in meaning to
A. Deficits B. Fortunes C. Properties D. Resources
12. According to the article, why are the two companies making the change?
A. To induce voluntary retirement B. To hire more employees
C. To reduce operation costs D. To remain competitive
13. According to the article, what happened in 1999?
A. Watson Media Inc. went bankrupt.
B. Charles Duvet Jr. started a company.
C. Harvey Media introduced a new campaign.
D. Jackson Polkins published a book.
14. What can be inferred from the newspaper article?
A. The new company will lay off many workers.
B. McDowell Publishing will invest considerable money.
C. Watson Media Inc. is a huge company.
D. Harvey Media will change locations.
15. What is Jackson Polkins’s occupation?
A. Company spokesman B. Financial advisor
C. Children’s writer D. Publishing assistant

Questions 16-20

Memorandum

Dear Research and Development Team,

As part of our seminar series this month, we have invited a few lecturers to come and speak at our company. The seminars will take place on Friday, June 23, and include the following individuals, all of whom are experts in their field and have been published numerous times in professional journals like "Science Weekly" and "Technology Now." It is my hope that these lectures will improve our team's productivity as we look to develop Verion Communications' latest SD 20 cell phone line. I have also included each expert's most recently published article.

Robert Kurt 'Creating New Technology' - The Journal of American Science.

Jang Lee 'A Cellular World: The hottest phones in Asia' - Gadget World Monthly.

Francois Levine 'Maintaining Efficiency When Developing New Products' - Smart Technology Times.

If he can make it, Bob Winner from SS Tech will also speak. I must also remind everyone that the lectures start at 8 a.m. sharp. An employee breakfast will be held beforehand in the company cafeteria. Lunch and dinner will be provided by Hanson's Deli. Your HR coordinators will be passing around an order sheet for sandwich and main meal preferences.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Denis Muller

Projects Manager

Research and Development, Verion Communications

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Article

According to our market research, the latest trend in cellular phones is without a doubt the built-in video game. Tatsuaki Electronics has surpassed its competition by introducing another advance in hand-held gadgets: the option to download video games from the Internet directly onto your phone. The VG 204 Cell Phone was introduced six months after the Tatsuaki's television phones began losing sales. The new product **boosted** the company's quarterly earnings by 20 percent. This increase demonstrates how quickly customers lose interest in new products, and, therefore, how important it is for technology companies to stay ahead of the game when it comes to product development. On June 15th, Tatsuaki also announced that it was working on an even more advanced prototype; technology fans in Japan are waiting patiently to see what's in store for them next. Even though Tatsuaki has been successful in the hand-held electronics market, other companies can still excel and reach the top by introducing innovative products to the technology sector. Verion Communications is a strong competitor in the cell phone industry, while New Media Inc. shows promise in the computer and television sectors.

16. What is the purpose of the memorandum?

- A. To recommend resources for future study
- B. To introduce speakers for a lecture series
- C. To introduce a new technology perspective
- D. To organize a brainstorming session for new employees

17. What is Verion Communications?

- A. A publishing company
- B. A computer company
- C. A cell phone company
- D. A video game company

18. What can be inferred from the article?

- A. Companies should constantly change products to maintain customers' interest.
- B. Companies should create new technology without sacrificing productivity.
- C. Companies should choose a specific audience to advertise new products to.
- D. Companies should invest more money in development research than market research.

19. In the article, the word "**boosted**" is closest in meaning to

- A. eliminated
- B. prevented
- C. increased
- D. undermined

20. Which lecturer might discuss Tatsuaki Electronics' new product in their lecture?

- A. Bob Winner
- B. Robert Kurt
- C. Jang Lee
- D. Francois Levine

Questions 21-30

Birds that feed in flocks commonly retire together into roosts. The reasons for roosting communally are not always obvious, but there are some likely benefits. In winter especially, it is important for birds to keep warm at night and **conserve** precious food reserves. One way to do this is to find a sheltered roost. Solitary roosters shelter in dense vegetation or enter a cavity - horned larks dig holes in the ground and ptarmigan burrow into snow banks - but the effect of sheltering is **magnified** by several birds huddling together in the roosts, as wrens, swifts, brown creepers, bluebirds, and anis do. Body contact reduces the surface area exposed to the cold air, so the birds keep each other warm. Two **kinglets** huddling together were found to reduce their heat losses by a quarter, and three together saved a third of their heat.

The second possible benefit of communal roosts is that they act as "information centers". During the day, parties of birds will have spread out to **forage** over a very large area. When they return in the evening some will have fed well, but others may have found little to eat. Some investigators have observed that when the birds set out again next morning, those birds that did not feed well on the previous day appear to follow those that did. The behavior of common and lesser kestrels may illustrate different feeding behaviors of similar birds with different roosting habits. The common kestrel hunts vertebrate animals in a small, familiar hunting ground, whereas the very similar lesser kestrel feeds on insects over a large area. The common kestrel roosts and hunts alone, but the lesser kestrel roosts and hunts in flocks, possibly so one bird can learn from others where to find insect swarms.

Finally, there is safety in numbers at communal roosts since there will always be a few birds awake at any given moment to give the alarm. But this increased protection is partially **counteracted** by the fact that mass roosts attract predators and are especially vulnerable if they are on the ground. Even those in trees can be attacked by birds of prey. The birds on the edge are at greatest risk since predators find it easier to catch small birds perching at the margins of the roost.

21. What does the passage mainly discuss?
 - A. How birds find and store food
 - B. How birds maintain body heat in the winter
 - C. Why birds need to establish territory
 - D. Why some species of birds nest together
22. The word "**conserve**" is closest in meaning to
 - A. retain
 - B. watch
 - C. locate
 - D. share
23. Ptarmigan keep warm in the winter by
 - A. huddling together on the ground with other birds
 - B. building nests in trees
 - C. burrowing into dense patches of vegetation
 - D. digging tunnels into the snow
24. The word "**magnified**" is closest in meaning to
 - A. caused
 - B. modified
 - C. intensified
 - D. combined
25. The author mentions **kinglets** as an example of birds that
 - A. protect themselves by nesting in holes
 - B. nest with other species of birds
 - C. nest together for warmth
 - D. usually feed and nest in pairs
26. The word "**forage**" is closest in meaning to
 - A. fly
 - B. assemble
 - C. feed
 - D. rest
27. Which of the following statements about lesser and common kestrels is true?
 - A. The lesser kestrel and the common kestrel have similar diets.
 - B. The lesser kestrel feeds sociably but the common kestrel does not.
 - C. The common kestrel nests in larger flocks than does the lesser kestrel.
 - D. The common kestrel nests in trees; the lesser kestrel nests on the ground.
28. The word "**counteracted**" is closest in meaning to
 - A. suggested
 - B. negated
 - C. measured
 - D. shielded

29. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as an advantage derived by birds that huddle together while sleeping?
- A. Some members of the flock warn others of impending dangers.
 - B. Staying together provides a greater amount of heat for the whole flock.
 - C. Some birds in the flock function as information centers for others who are looking for food.
 - D. Several members of the flock care for the young.
30. Which of the following is a disadvantage of communal roosts that is mentioned in the passage?
- A. Diseases easily spread among the birds.
 - B. Groups are more attractive to predators than individual birds.
 - C. Food supplies are quickly depleted.
 - D. Some birds in the group will attack the others.

Questions 31-40

Although women now (31)_____ almost half of all workers in the US, nearly 80 percent of them are employed in low-paying clerical, sales, service, or factory jobs. Approximately a third of all women workers have clerical jobs, which pay (32)_____ average \$12,000 or less. Partly as a result, women make only seventy-five cents for every dollar (33)_____ by men. (34)_____, men routinely make more money even when education, experience, and responsibilities are (35)_____.

The gap in male-female earning had great significance because more than 16 percent of US households are (36)_____ by women. Low-paying jobs keep many of these households in poverty. Women's groups such as National Organization for Women have demanded that equal opportunities and equal pay (37)_____ to women. According to women's (38)_____ Maggie McAnany, "It is imperative that the government help to change the situation (of employment for women). We cannot wait for the companies to (39)_____ themselves. Change must come (40)_____ the law."

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|-------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 31. A. made of | B. take in | C. take up | D. make up |
| 32. A. at | B. on | C. in | D. for |
| 33. A. earns | B. earned | C. to earn | D. earning |
| 34. A. Although | B. Whatever | C. Moreover | D. Contrary |
| 35. A. equal | B. equality | C. equally | D. equalizing |
| 36. A. headed | B. hosted | C. licensed | D. carried |
| 37. A. are giving | B. be given | C. is giving | D. are given |
| 38. A. action | B. activist | C. activity | D. active |
| 39. A. restore | B. regain | C. reform | D. regard |
| 40. A. for | B. through | C. at | D. along |