

Part 5

You are going to read an article about teenage inventors. For questions 31–36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Young inventors who changed the world

Some of the world's best-loved inventions were dreamed up not by adults, but by young people. While you may not have heard their names, teenagers have created everything from comic heroes to national flags ...

In 1933, student Jerry Siegel wrote a fantasy story about a hero called Superman, which his artistic classmate Joe Shuster illustrated. The character had no superpowers and wore ordinary clothes; he wasn't even particularly nice. Keen to get their story published and wondering whether this might be a problem, Siegel and Shuster developed Superman further. He reappeared as the character now popular with people all over the world: he could fly, had excellent vision, and wore the costume we know today. Possibly based on 'strongmen' who took part in circus performances in the 1900s, Superman's look was completed with a cloak and dramatic red and blue outfit. Siegel and Shuster, who had dreamed of great success, had achieved it.

Superman isn't the only teen invention in the arts world. Take hip-hop music. It didn't appear overnight, but two people well-known for being active in its development were youngsters Clive Campbell and Theodore Livingston. In the 1970s, Campbell, who was just 17, became a DJ, holding open-air street parties. He soon realised that his audiences were waiting for a strong beat to dance to, so with artistic skill he mixed beats from different songs. He also began calling out to the public who were attending the parties in an original style, and, along with his beats, this formed the basis of rap music. A new musical style was born. He soon had his own pupils, one of whom was 12-year-old Theodore Livingston, a musician who started by scratching a record by accident. He liked the sound, improved on it, and it later appeared on the first successful hip-hop track.

Another artistic teenage invention is the modern American flag. Many believe it was designed by Betsy Ross, who worked as an upholsterer, making repairs to furniture and covering items such as chairs with fabric. However, there's no evidence to confirm this. While she may have sewn some of America's original flags, Ross certainly didn't design the current one. That was thought up by 17-year-old Robert Heft in the late 1950s, when America's newest states, Alaska and Hawaii, were created, and a fifty-star design was needed. Heft produced a design for a school project, and when he complained about getting a worse mark than he thought he should for his creation, his teacher (possibly not very seriously) suggested that he sent in his design to the US government. Competing against 1,500 other designs, it seemed unlikely Heft's design would win – but it did, and this is the flag we see today.

Yet another result of teenage creativity is a writing system known as Braille. When he was just three, French boy Louis Braille lost his sight due to an infection. In the 1800s, it wasn't common for blind people to live fulfilling lives, but fortunately for Louis, France had the only school for blind children in the world. While he could listen to lectures, he realised he would never be able to read great literature. Wishing to do so, Louis decided to invent his own writing system which would help blind people to read. Louis was inspired by an army captain called Charles Barbier de la Serre, who had developed a system of writing which used raised dots on paper that could be 'read' by soldiers in the dark. Louis knew he could improve on it and spent three years developing the modern Braille alphabet, which is read by moving the fingers over the paper. By the age of 15, Louis had created something that still allows blind people around the world to read not only books, but music, watches, thermometers and even buttons in lifts.

So, if you have a great idea, but worry it may not be taken seriously because of your age, now you know differently!

line 29

line 62

- 31 What do we learn about Siegel and Shuster in the second paragraph?
- A They based Superman on someone they knew personally.
 - B They struggled to find a character people would like.
 - C They felt confident that their story would sell well.
 - D They were ambitious young men.
- 32 What does 'formed the basis of' in line 29 mean?
- A created the most important part
 - B supported the other elements
 - C became the main method
 - D was affected by
- 33 What is the writer doing in the first three sentences of the fourth paragraph?
- A providing details about how the American flag changed over time
 - B correcting a mistake people often make about the American flag
 - C describing what the first American flags were used for
 - D explaining how the first American flag was produced
- 34 In the fourth paragraph we learn that while he was at school, Robert Heft
- A was prepared to defend a design he had produced.
 - B received encouragement about his work from his teacher.
 - C did not have a good personal relationship with his teacher.
 - D felt he had a good chance of winning a design competition.
- 35 What does *it* refer to in line 62?
- A the modern Braille alphabet
 - B Louis Braille's reading and writing ability
 - C Charles Barbier's writing system
 - D the paper used for Barbier's invention
- 36 What is the main purpose of this text?
- A to encourage readers to think up their own inventions
 - B to emphasise the importance of following your goals
 - C to compare the successes of several young people
 - D to highlight what can be achieved at a young age

Part 6

You are going to read an article about graffiti. Six sentences have been removed from the article.

Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Is there any value in graffiti?

Banksy, perhaps the most successful graffiti artist of all time, keeps his real identity a mystery. But are we attracted to his work because it's brilliant, or is it the fact that we don't know who he really is that keeps us interested in graffiti?

It's a good question.

37 What are his intentions in doing so? To get powerful messages across to those who can help solve the problems. People pay attention to what he is saying, though whether street art like his will change the world remains to be seen. 38 Their work will be removed and they may even end up in prison – a possible consequence of breaking the law by painting on public property.

39 In many of these it is not only illegal, but considered messy and unattractive as well. It requires a lot of effort on behalf of owners and local governments to remove or paint over it. Yet despite banning it from public areas, graffiti just keeps coming back. So, why do street artists do it when they know they could be in big trouble? For many it's simply a desire to express creativity which they cannot ignore.

It may be seen as a modern 'problem', but graffiti has in fact been around for thousands of years. During its history it has represented much more than people's creative skills. 40 Messages of love, political messages and thoughtful ideas were all expressed on monuments and buildings throughout Ancient Greece, Egypt and Rome. In other regions, it was a simple way to share news with people in nearby villages.

The good news is that in some places, people believe that street art can be worth saving, just as those ancient messages have been conserved. In his home city of Bristol, UK, the public were asked to take part in an online vote to see whether one of Banksy's original pieces of wall art should be kept. 41 How that quality is measured depends on those in charge, but some say this is definitely a step in the right direction.

What's more, some communities are starting to provide a limited number of public walls that can be legally painted on. 'It makes us really competitive,' says one artist who uses such spaces. 'If you do something really good, other artists respect it and it gets to stay on the wall. If they don't think it's any good, it gets painted over.' 42 Maybe the next Banksy is on the way.

- A Some of the earliest examples were scratched into walls rather than painted, and they were not seen as negative.
- B It brings people together, it's healthy competition and it helps you improve your skills, he goes on to explain.
- C And while Banksy might have become famous for painting pictures on walls, the vast majority of street artists will not.
- D This is only one example of what is becoming an increasing problem in many places.
- E And yet, in towns and cities across the world, graffiti continues to cover not only walls, but public transport and other property, too.
- F They decided it ought to be, and now other places have also started to think about saving local artists' high-quality work, too.
- G He is clearly a good artist, but one of the reasons behind his success is that he makes people aware of social issues.

Part 7

You are going to read an article about teenagers who have their own businesses. For questions 43–52, choose from the teenagers (A–D). The teenagers may be chosen more than once.

Which person:

- 43 was not sure about creating an online business at first?
- 44 doesn't understand why people think she would change how she does business?
- 45 is keen on doing what she can to look after the environment?
- 46 accepted help from someone else in order to set up her business?
- 47 is thinking about increasing the range of items she offers?
- 48 only thought of items she'd kept when she saw what other people were doing with theirs?
- 49 felt nervous about what her first customers would say?
- 50 explains how she felt when she first sold something?
- 51 has a clear idea of what she would like to do in the future?
- 52 has enjoyed being creative since a young age?

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Teenage tycoons

Four successful teenagers tell us about their online businesses

A Tegan, 15

I have an accessories business, making and selling not only jewellery, including necklaces and earrings, but handbags and other cute items, too. I've loved sewing since I was a kid – I was that girl who used to make outfits for my dolls! They were far from amazing and I had to make do with whatever bits of material I could find around the house. But I learned some useful skills, such as how to make really small things! Then I started to try out the things I make now and I gave them to people as gifts. They loved them and encouraged me to try selling them online. I hesitated because I wasn't sure I wanted to spend all my free time at my sewing machine. In fact, I really enjoy it, and my online shop's doing well. I'm considering trying out a range of bow ties I've made to see whether I can increase customer numbers.

B Bernadette, 16

I buy and sell old records online. It was tough when I started out because I didn't earn any money. In fact, my parents lent me some so I could buy my first few albums. Business was slow in the beginning and I sold hardly anything. I didn't make the best choices when I was buying things but I couldn't afford really popular albums everyone wanted at that time. I didn't give up and slowly I built my business up and eventually managed to give back everything I'd borrowed. I'm finally starting to make money now and that's such an exciting feeling. Sometimes it's tricky having to send something off to a customer that I'd really like to keep for myself but you just have to do it. Friends are always asking whether I want to set up a high street shop. Why would I when I can buy and sell from home?

C Carla, 17

I've been a big fan of football for as long as I can remember. I would go to matches with my dad as a child and I got to meet loads of players because he worked at the stadium. I'd always ask them to sign things – caps, T-shirts, whatever I was wearing. For years they sat in my wardrobe, forgotten. It was only when I came across a TV series about people selling what they'd found in their homes that the idea of doing the same with mine came into my mind. I set up a webpage and before long, I'd sold my entire collection. It gave me a great sense of satisfaction. I truthfully thought that would be the end of it. I'd made a nice bit of money and could afford to buy some stuff I wanted. But it wasn't enough and now I buy and sell other people's things for them!

D Maria, 14

I produce packaging which I sell to other small online businesses. Items include wrapping paper and small boxes for gifts. I make sure everything I supply is recycled and can be re-used as well. It's important to me to be responsible and do my bit to conserve Earth's natural resources. I try to be imaginative with what I produce. I use old newspapers, cotton or wool from old clothes, envelopes ... It was pretty terrifying waiting for people to purchase things because I was sure they'd send my products back and say they were awful! I had nightmares waiting for the feedback. When it came through, they said they loved what I did! Hopefully people will keep making positive comments about my work. I'm not really planning to make a career out of this but you never know. There's one thing I'm sure I want to do and that's combine creativity with selling.