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Exam Skills Trainer

Reading

Exam Strategy

When you don't understand specific words or phrases, you can often work out their meaning from the context. Concentrate on the language that you already know to work out the meaning of the words, or of that part of the text.

- 1 Read the Strategy. Then read the extract below and try to work out the meaning of any unknown words. Then circle the correct answer (A–D).

It is clear that interest in hobbies is changeable, but a few hobbies have stood the test of time. A conspicuous example of this is collecting. Anything is collectible if someone decides to collect it. And it is a curious fact that even objects with little intrinsic value can become exorbitantly priced if enough people demonstrate a desire for them.

What fact about collecting does the author point out?

- ☐ A Very valuable objects are the most popular.
☐ B All collectibles are extremely expensive.
☐ C Objects of little value can become very expensive.
☐ D Certain types of objects are popular collectibles.

- 2 Read three texts. Circle the correct answer (A–D).

For some reason, I was never thrilled by the hobbies my family and friends attempted to interest me in. When I was younger, my mum and sisters tried to get me into scrapbooking, but I failed to see the point. My friends' passion for skateboarding and martial arts like karate didn't catch my interest either. My dad tried to get me involved in his hobby, model planes, but I didn't have the patience for it. Then my mum and I started chatting with a neighbour who grew rare plants. One tour of her greenhouse, and I was hooked. Of course my friends were very surprised – and still are – but I am sure that plants will be a lifelong passion.

- 1 The writer suggests that

- ☐ A his friends don't understand his hobby.
☐ B he and his mother share the same interests.
☐ C he used to be interested in skateboarding.
☐ D he is keen on making things at home.

Hobby-related holidays are on the way to becoming one of the most lucrative forms of tourism, and younger people are definitely joining in. Of course, sports-related camps have been a huge part of tourism for ages, but what if you're someone with little interest in tennis or basketball? A good option for you might be a two-week photography tour – with stunning scenery, ancient buildings and sometimes even underwater photography. Alternatively, if you are interested in nature, you can spend two weeks in an exotic location helping to identify rare plants and animals – while soaking up some sun and meeting like-minded people.

- 2 What does the writer say about hobby-related holidays?

- ☐ A They have existed for a long time.
☐ B They are mainly sports-related.
☐ C They are usually for young people.
☐ D They are popular and varied.

MAPPLETON SCHOOL HOBBY DAY

Think you're too busy studying to make time for a hobby? Haven't found a hobby that interests you, but want to explore some possibilities?

Then come to Mappleton School's annual Hobby Day! Students and teachers will give presentations and lead hands-on workshops. Everything from collecting and crafting to photography and landscape painting will be covered. Come with an open mind, and there's a good chance you'll find an interest to last a lifetime! Saturday, 3 March from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- 3 The purpose of the text is to

- ☐ A help people find time for a hobby.
☐ B encourage people to participate in an event.
☐ C list hobbies that students might enjoy.
☐ D remind people why it's good to have hobbies.

Listening

Exam Strategy

Read the statements carefully before you listen, paying close attention to key words in order to predict what you are going to hear. Think about who might be speaking, and what feeling or idea they might be expressing.

- 3 Read the Strategy. Then underline the key words in statements 1–3.

- 1 Jim's grandparents were ambitious for their children. ☐
2 Jim's grandparents both attended university. ☐
3 Jim's mother disappointed her parents. ☐

- 4 Read the extract from a recording. Are the statements in exercise 3 true (T) or false (F)?

Jim My mum's parents wanted a different life for their children. My grandparents didn't finish school, but they worked very hard so my mum could go to university. I'm not sure my mum really *wanted* to be a lawyer, but she knew it would thrill her parents, so she just got on with it.

- 5 **1.12** Listen to two young people talking about their family history. You will hear the recording twice. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Lila has no memory of moving to the UK. ☐
2 Lila's mother made the decision to move to the UK. ☐
3 Most of Tim's family came to the UK from Norway. ☐
4 Tim's father grew up in the countryside. ☐
5 Tim admires his father's achievements. ☐