

READING

Task 4

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (17–21). There are three choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

EXCITING TOURS

17 COMINO AND THE BLUE LAGOON — Full Day

Sail with us to the magical Blue Lagoon and enjoy the crystal clear waters in a wonderful day out at sea. We start off towards the north of Malta where this excursion will take us past landmarks such as the bays of St Julian's, St Andrews and St Paul's where we can see the islands where the shipwreck of St Paul took place in 60 A.D.

18 FERNANDES — GOZO, COMINO AND THE BLUE LAGOON — Full Day

One of the most recommended excursions in Malta is definitely a full day on the Fernandes which is a Turkish Gullet with a large forward deck and saloon. After leaving Sliema and start cruising towards the north of Malta, we pass popular places like St Julians and its casino, St Pauls Islands and Mellieha Bay.

19 SUNDAY SPECIAL — Full Day

Come join us on a delightful full day excursion that includes a cruise, a flea market and horse racing together with a buffet lunch to make this tour a complete day out in Malta. We start off with the ever popular Valletta market with its many stalls, hawkers and customers all enjoying the latest Sunday deal.

20 ABOVE AND BELOW — Full Day

Enjoy a full day excursion that combines a tour of the majestic Grand Harbour and the mysterious wonders of what lies beneath the sea. We start off by discovering the ports and creeks of Valletta and the Three Cities that make this Harbour such a unique experience.

21 MYSTERIES OF THE GRAND HARBOUR — Half Day (Morning)

This is a spectacular half day excursion where we combine two of the most popular attractions in Malta, the Harbour Cruise together with the Malta Experience in one memorable event. The Harbour Cruise takes us to the exact battle site of the island's greatest battles, the Great Siege of 1565 and the World War II.

During this tour you can...

- A see the underwater world
- B do the shopping
- C visit the museum of history
- D spend a day on an old ship
- E go on a trip to the capital
- F see the place where the ship sank
- G go on an excursion round the islands
- H have a day off with extreme sports

Task 5

Read the text below. For each empty space (22–26) choose the correct variant (A, B, C, D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

THE NEW EFFECTS OF GREEN TEA

According to the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), the bone thinning condition known as osteoporosis is a major public health threat for 44 million Americans, 68% of whom are women. Approximately 10 million Americans already have osteoporosis and another 34 million more have low bone mass, placing them at high risk for this disease. Of course, Big Pharma claims it has the solution — lots of prescription drugs that supposedly strengthen bones and treat osteoporosis. Unfortunately, these medications are loaded with potentially severe and even fatal side effects, including cancer and disintegration of bone in the jaw.

But now scientists have found a natural substance that could prevent and treat bone robbing osteoporosis without any side effects at all. A Hong Kong research team just published new evidence in the American Chemical Society's Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry that green tea may help improve bone health. In fact, they've discovered green tea contains a group of chemicals that can stimulate bone formation and help slow its breakdown. The result, the researchers said in a statement to the media, is that green tea has the potential to help in the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis and other bone diseases that affect millions throughout the world.

For their study, over the course of several days the scientists exposed a group of cultured bone-forming cells called osteoblasts to three types of natural chemicals found in green tea: epigallocatechin (EGC), gallicatechin (GC), and gallicatechin gallate (GG). They found that one in particular, EGC, sent the activity of a key enzyme that promotes bone growth soaring by about 79%. EGC also significantly raised levels of bone mineralization in the cells, showing that the green tea component could strengthen bones. What's more, the researchers also found that the high concentrations of EGC blocked the activity of osteoclasts, a type of cell which weakens and can break down bones.

22 The percentage of men suffering from osteoporosis is ____.

A about 70 % C more than 60 %
B more than 30 % D about 30 %

23 The studies show that ____.

A prescription drugs help strengthen bones
B traditional medicines treat osteoporosis
C natural substances help improve bone health
D chemicals discovered in green tea are loaded with side effects

24 The side effects of the medications include ____.

A Alzheimer's disease C leukaemia
B heart disease D disintegration of bone in the jaw

25 How many components of green tea can help in the treatment of osteoporosis?

A one C three
B two D all of the components

26 The scientists found out that EGC doesn't ____.

A promote weakening and breaking down bones
B block the activity of osteoclasts
C promote bone growth
D raise levels of mineralization in the cells

Task 6

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (27–32). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

BELS MALTA'S NEW SCHOOL

An interview with Rebecca Brincat

BELS will shortly be opening a new English language school in Malta, offering students a further option when choosing to study on this Mediterranean Island. Today we spoke to Rebecca Brincat, Director at BELS, to find out a little more about the new school.

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— In Gozo, our flagship adult school is meeting the ambitious targets we set for 2010 and on Malta we ran the Teenage Residential Programme for the first time ever, at Easter time and this too was a great success. We are now hoping that the new adult school on Malta will have equal success.

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— The new school is based in the seaside town of St Paul's Bay. St Paul's Bay and its neighbours Bugibba and Qawra are Malta's largest seaside resorts.

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— The coast line is full of little coves and bays that are ideal for swimming in sheltered water on a rocky beach. Since St Paul's Bay is also a fishing village, it boasts some of the best fish restaurants on the island. It is also well connected to the rest of the island through a well traversed bus route. Also less than a five-minute bus ride away one may find Mellieha Bay — the longest sandy beach on Malta.

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— Yes, the school has 8 classes that are all well lit and air-conditioned. It boasts an internet cafe and study areas and also coffee and snack vending machines. We can also provide host families and 3 or 4 star hotels are within easy walking distance of the school. The school is also located close to all amenities such as green grocers, mini markets, bakers, butchers, banks, diving schools etc.

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— We offer General English in groups or individually in all levels from A1–C2. We can also provide Business English and Exam Preparation courses.

32

— Malta is a unique destination, because English is a native language here, however we also boast fabulous weather, marvellous beaches and of course friendly locals. St Paul's Bay is a pleasant change to St Julian's, by far the busiest destination for EFL on Malta. One is met with blue seas, typical houses and smiling faces as opposed to smog and a concrete jungle. BELS, St Pauls Bay was opened in June 2010.

- A — Do you have any special offers or last minute deals this summer?
- B — How has the year been so far for BELS?
- C — So BELS is soon to be launching a new school in Malta. Where is the new one located?
- D — Increasingly access to the worldwide web is important for students. What internet facilities do you have at the school?
- E — Finally, what would you say is your unique selling point (USP), not just about the school, but about studying in Malta?
- F — What courses are you offering?
- G — What's on offer in the area?
- H — Could you tell us a bit about the accommodation and facilities?

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (33–38). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

CT SCANS: NECESSITY OR EXPOSITION TO HARMFUL RADIATION?

If a child is accidentally hit in the head with a baseball or kicked in the forehead during roughhousing, it can be scary for the youngster and the parents, too. After all, traumatic brain injuries are sometimes serious. They result in about 7,400 deaths a year to American kids 18 years old and younger. So it makes sense to have children checked out for a concussion or other signs of brain injury (33) _____, especially if they were knocked unconscious. But far too many kids with knocks to their 'noggins' are being routinely treated as if they had serious brain injuries — even if they don't have significant symptoms of a neurological problem — and given unnecessary, radiation-loaded computerized tomography (CT) scans.

That's the conclusion of a study just published online and slated for an upcoming edition of the print version (34) _____. Nathan Kuppermann, of the University of California at Davis Departments of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics, and colleagues found there are validated ways doctors can identify children at very low risk of clinically important traumatic brain injuries (ciTBIs). That's important because these simple, non-invasive findings on an exam should keep the vast majority of youngsters with head trauma (35) _____ which expose them to potentially cancer-causing radiation.

The study investigated the records of more than 42,000 children, including CT scans that had been performed on 35% of them. About 25% of the youngsters were under the age of two, (36) .

The researchers also came up with another prediction rule to identify children older than two (37) _____. Those without a significant brain injury had normal mental status, no loss of consciousness, no vomiting, non-severe injury mechanism, no signs of a fracture at the base of their skull, and no severe headache. This list of signs and symptoms correctly predicted 99.95% (all but two) of the 3,800 patients who did not have a cTBI.

Once again, however, the researchers found that a large number of these youngsters, 20%, had been given CT scans even though they were actually at low risk for brain trauma. Bottom line: (38) _____, most children with bumps to the head would avoid CT scans and the accompanying radiation exposure.

- A who did not have ciTBI
- B and the others were three to 18 years old
- C from having CT scans
- D to assist clinicians and families in CT decision making
- E if doctors used the prediction rules listed above
- F if they've experienced head trauma
- G of the medical journal the *Lancet*
- H with minor blunt head trauma