

LASER ASSIGNMENT

Name:

Reading

1 You are going to read an article about things that young people care about. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–F the one which fits each gap (1–5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

DO YOU REALLY CARE?

Young people are often accused of not caring about anything but going out and having a good time. Peter Marsh spoke to a group of teenagers to find out if that's true.

Last Saturday, I was invited to go and talk to some of the members of the East Side Youth Club. They were a lively and friendly group – and more than willing to talk to me. So I got straight to the point and asked them, 'Teenagers just want to have fun – they don't care about anything serious, do they?' The response was deafening. 1 But the main message they were all communicating to me was that I was wrong – that they *do* care. So when they quietened down a bit, I started to ask them what sort of things they were passionate about.

Relationships was a big issue with most of them. Some of them had boyfriends and girlfriends who weren't in the group, and they were keen to tell me about them. What I found interesting was the calm and intelligent way they spoke about how to make a relationship work. 2 After that, they said that trust was necessary, otherwise jealousy would destroy the relationship.

Of course, family relationships also came into the discussion. Most of them seemed to get on very well with their parents. They cared quite deeply about what their mums and dads thought of them, which impressed me. One girl said that it was in the interest of both sides to make the relationship work. 3 But she went on to say that she realised it was only because they wanted to prevent her from getting into trouble. A couple of the boys also admitted that *they* were worried about *their parents* – they thought they worked too hard to try to make enough money to live on.

Money was an important issue for most of them. The subject came up during the discussion about school. Every single one of them was deadly serious about school work. Matthew spoke for most of them when he said, 'We work hard at school, but not because our parents and teachers make us. 4 I care about getting an education because it's an investment for my future. I don't know what I want to be yet, but I know that I don't want to be out of work'. The agreement of the others echoed around the room. Several of them spoke about having very little money, and one girl added that it was difficult to do without money, so the most logical thing to do was to work hard at school and give themselves the best possible chance of getting a well-paid job later.

I was determined to find out whether their enthusiasm extended to the wider world. So far, we had only really talked about personal issues – things that affected them directly. So I mentioned environmental matters. We talked about global warming and the greenhouse effect. They seemed to know a lot about these things, so I asked them how concerned they were. Judith, who is 14, answered immediately, 'That affects us as well! It's our future they're messing around with! We might not have a world if things speed up'. 5 These included clean-up weekends, recycling schemes and tree-planting programmes. They showed me a bin in the youth club where members could put old batteries so that they could be disposed of carefully. Three of them announced that they were members of Greenpeace.

It was only after I had said goodbye and I was leaving the youth club that I realised that not one person had mentioned going out and having fun. All the way home I kept thinking about friends and people I knew. I was wondering how a group of adults would have responded. But there was no doubt in my mind about the members of the East Side Youth Club – they care!

- A We do it for ourselves because we don't want to end up without a job.
- B Another said that her parents were quite strict with her.
- C They disagreed with this and said that teachers were to blame.
- D Imagine the sound of 20 kids all shouting excitedly at once.
- E The others felt just as strongly and some talked proudly about activities they had taken part in.
- F Most agreed that honesty was the most important factor.

Section 2

Grammar and Vocabulary

2 Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Technology

Humans have always tried to (1) _____ their standard of living using technology. With the first humans, many thousands of years ago, this was through the (2) _____ of simple tools and weapons. Later, agriculture and the wheel were (3) _____. All these are examples of technological (4) _____. And this scientific (5) _____ has continued up to the (6) _____ day.

Every day almost, new products are (7) _____ out which make what we want to do faster, more (8) _____, more effective and often cheaper. So is technology always a good thing? Can't we point to nuclear weapons and guns and say that they are essentially (9) _____? Perhaps it (10) _____ on how you look at the (11) _____. Some people argue that guns don't kill people – people kill people. It's how we use the technology that determines whether it is (12) _____ to society or not.

1 A multiply	B improve	C grow	D rise
2 A production	B delivery	C distribution	D sale
3 A renovated	B discovered	C manufactured	D developed
4 A motions	B advances	C movements	D actions
5 A increase	B progress	C addition	D travel
6 A existing	B current	C present	D contemporary
7 A made	B given	C taken	D brought
8 A complicated	B traditional	C obsolete	D efficient
9 A pessimistic	B disapproving	C critical	D harmful
10 A depends	B matters	C questions	D balances
11 A condition	B situation	C appearance	D state
12 A informative	B beneficial	C reliable	D responsible

3 Write the word in brackets in the correct form to complete each sentence.

- 1 I'm shocked by your _____ (HONEST); why didn't you just tell the truth?
- 2 Do you think that travel really _____ (BROAD) the mind?
- 3 If we don't find a _____ (SOLVE) soon, the planet will be in trouble.
- 4 I made six _____ (PAY) of €100 per month for six months.
- 5 Do you think that _____ (HAPPY) is more important than wealth?
- 6 How should factories dispose of _____ (INDUSTRY) waste?
- 7 You made a lot of _____ (CARE) mistakes in your essay. Please take more care next time!

8 What's the _____ (DISTANT) between the North Pole and the South Pole?

4 Write one word to complete each sentence.

1 I don't know how you put _____ with Stacy's rudeness.

2 I thought I could trust you. You've really let me _____.

3 We went to the port to see Adam _____ on his round-the-world trip.

4 Scientists are looking _____ ways to stop hair falling out.

5 Humans can't do _____ oxygen. We need it to breathe.

6 I don't make a lot of money, but I make enough to get _____.

7 I never thought the fashion would catch _____ so quickly.

8 Some species of plant will die _____ soon unless we do something to stop it.

5 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1 There's not much money in my bank account!

only

There's _____ money in my bank account!

2 I'd suggest asking your parents first.

better

You _____ your parents first.

3 This will be Liz's first trip abroad.

never

Liz _____ before.

4 He started watching TV at six o'clock this morning.

been

He _____ six o'clock this morning.

5 There were so many cars we couldn't find anywhere to park.

such

There were _____ cars we couldn't find anywhere to park.

6 I'll finish the ironing and then I'll cook dinner.

soon

I'll cook dinner _____ the ironing.

7 Vincent doesn't want to go out tonight.

rather

Vincent _____ out tonight.

8 It was announced that the flight had been cancelled.

made

Someone _____ that the flight had been cancelled.

9 Maureen lent me the money.

borrowed

I _____ Maureen.

10 The article was more interesting than I'd expected.

not

The article was _____ I'd expected.

6 Write one word to complete each sentence.

- 1 My parents don't approve _____ my staying out late.
- 2 He'll never succeed _____ swimming all the way across the Atlantic.
- 3 Of course I think you're capable _____ finishing all that work on time.
- 4 I'm really looking forward _____ the end of term.
- 5 We have to prevent our dog _____ attacking visitors!
- 6 Success in exams depends _____ having a good memory.
- 7 Why don't you apply _____ that job?
- 8 What are you referring _____?

7 Write the words in brackets in the correct form to complete each sentence.

- 1 _____ (Ellie / have) a bath at the moment so can you call back a bit later?
- 2 As _____ (it / rain) quite heavily, we decided not to go to the castle.
- 3 _____ (Sean / never / live) away from home before, so we're all a bit worried about him.
- 4 Three people _____ (bite) by poisonous snakes in the last month.
- 5 If _____ (you / not / want) to go to the party tomorrow, you should tell Simon beforehand.
- 6 I'd buy a new CD player if _____ (I / have) enough money.

8 Write the word in brackets in the correct form to complete each sentence.

- 1 All our _____ (EMPLOY) are given six weeks holiday a year.
- 2 The javelin is all about _____ (STRONG) and speed.
- 3 Mark has a very good _____ (KNOW) of grammar. See if he knows the answer.
- 4 I had a long _____ (CONVERSE) with Daniel last night about computers.
- 5 Do you think there should be more _____ (EDUCATION) programmes for young children?
- 6 If we don't win on Friday, it'll be ten _____ (LOSE) in a row!
- 7 After reading about working in medicine, I've decided that I'd like to become a _____ (SURGERY).
- 8 All _____ (APPLY) for the position should arrive ten minutes before the time of their interview.

9 Write one word to complete each sentence.

- 1 Mobile phones have really taken _____, haven't they? Everyone's got one these days.
- 2 Look! Cheryl is so far ahead of us that we'll never catch _____ with her!
- 3 Let's just go _____ the plan one more time so that everyone knows what to do.
- 4 As soon as I turned my mobile _____ I got three text messages.
- 5 When I went to report the burglary, the police officer gave me a form to fill _____.
- 6 Reports are just coming in to the studio that a bomb has gone _____ in a popular night club.
- 7 When Liverpool take _____ Chelsea this weekend, it should be a great match.
- 8 If you don't know what a word means, you can often work it _____ from the context.

10 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1 Do you think you could help me with this suitcase?

mind

Would _____ me with this suitcase?

2 The doctor took my temperature and then weighed me.

taken

I _____ and then I was weighed.

3 'I didn't break your window,' the little boy said to me.

breaking

The little boy _____ window.

4 I regret not going to university when I had the chance.

wish

I _____ to university when I had the chance.

5 You should know how to tie your own shoelaces by now.

high

It _____ how to fasten your own shoelaces.

6 Georgia spotted the mistake first.

who

It _____ spotted the mistake first.

7 'Have you lived here long?' Andrea asked Gareth.

there

Andrea asked Gareth _____ long.

8 Anna's in Poland so I don't think you saw her yesterday.

seen

You _____ yesterday because she's in Poland.

WRITING TIME

School competition . Choose ONE of the following topics and write a story about

- THE BEST TRIP IN MY LIFE**
- THE WORST DAY IN MY LIFE**
- THE DAY EVERYTHING CHANGED**