NAME: _____

2 Exam Skills Trainer 2

some rocks, cross a busy main road, make their way through a line of marshy plants and pass over a vast mud flat.

Hotel guests must negotiate a number of obstacles to arrive at the Dead Sea, including a wide expanse of [ ].

4 122 **You will hear a talk about the changes experienced by the Aral Sea. For questions 1–8, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.**

A Changing World

Covering parts of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the Aral Sea used to be roughly half as big as [1] [ ]. Before it began to disappear, fish from the lake were distributed all over what used to be [2] [ ]. The water supply to the Aral Sea was interrupted when the rivers were redirected for the [3] [ ] crop. A system of dams, reservoirs and [4] [ ] was built to irrigate the land. As the level of water in the lake dropped, the amount of [5] [ ] rose. Part of what used to be the South Aral Sea has turned into a [6] [ ]. The North Aral Sea has been saved by the construction of a new [7] [ ]. Today, the North Aral Sea offers nearby residents more [8] [ ] and jobs than in recent years.

Use of English

Strategy

In the open cloze task, some gaps can be filled by referring just to the immediate phrase or sentence surrounding the gap. However, others require understanding of the paragraph or whole text. Always read through the text before you attempt the task to make sure you understand the story or message.

5 Read the Strategy above and the text in exercise 6. Choose the sentence which best summarises the message of the text.

a Scientists have found a less painful method for diabetes sufferers to obtain blood for testing.

b A new technique has been developed which will improve the lives of diabetes patients.

c A recent medical discovery is likely to prolong the lives of people with diabetes.

6 Complete the text with one word in each space.

A medical breakthrough

Diabetes is a medical condition patients can live with [1] [ ] that they check their blood sugar levels regularly. This is usually done by pricking a finger and placing a drop of blood on a testing strip attached [2] [ ] a meter. But now, a team of researchers at Harvard and MIT have come [3] [ ] with an alternative method for checking the blood. Using a special ink, they have developed a kind of tattoo that will make the process much [4] [ ] invasive in the long term. Not [5] [ ] does the ink detect the presence of sugar in the blood, but it is also able to track other substances. Too much glucose and the tattoo turns brown; an excess of sodium and it goes green. Pinks and purples indicate a change [6] [ ] pH levels.

The main advantage of the new method is that diabetes patients won't have to [7] [ ] extracting blood for testing any more. For this reason the tattoos will probably catch [8] [ ] quickly once they have passed all the necessary medical trials.

Speaking

Strategy

In the collaborative task, you may need to use the following techniques to speculate about the prompts:

- use synonyms of 'think': *I reckon, I suppose*
- use modal verbs of speculation: *must, might*
- use verbs that indicate impression: *look, appear*
- use set phrases: *there's a chance, in all probability*

7 Read the Strategy and add examples to the techniques.

8 Work in pairs. Do the task below. Use the ideas in the Strategy to speculate about the prompts.

How might these changes affect a teenager's life?

- going to school abroad for a year
- acquiring a motorbike
- having a new baby brother or sister
- inheriting some money
- starting a new school

Writing

Strategy

When you write a proposal, you will be expected to demonstrate appropriate use of two or more functions in your answer, such as describing, expressing opinion, giving reasons, persuading, or recommending. These functions will be specified in the task.

9 Read the Strategy above and the task below. Which functions from the Strategy are specified in the task?

Your local council is concerned about the rising number of young people hanging around the streets at night in your town. Write a proposal for the council in which you outline the current facilities available for young people, make suggestions for new facilities, and explain how your suggestions might affect people of other ages in your town.

10 Write the proposal (220–260 words) for the task in exercise 9.

LIVEWORKSHEETS