

Task 1

Read the text and answer questions 1 – 6.

Singer Natalie Cole, 64, spoke with reporter Marc Myers:



The house where I grew up in the Hancock Park section of Los Angeles was like a dream. It was mainly a white and wealthy area. I was born in 1950 and my first memories of our English Tudor brick house were part of my childhood world. Both of my parents were celebrities and famous artists. After all, my dad was Nat King Cole, one of the country's most popular pianists and singers, and my mum, Maria Hawkins Cole, had been a singer in Duke Ellington's band. She wanted a nice house after they married in 1948 and my dad had the money to buy it for his new bride.

When I was old enough to walk home alone from school, I loved seeing our house from a distance. It had this proud, royal look. I **rarely** went through the front door. The back was more interesting. On the side of the house was an iron gate and Charity, our housekeeper, would let me in through that gate. Then I walked through our garden of trees and across the backyard, passing our pool.

Once I reached the house, I went up a few steps and passed through the porch to the kitchen, where I sat and had the snack that Charity had prepared. If you went past the kitchen, you would find two steps leading down to our living room, which was bright green. Next to the living room was the library, my favourite room. That's where my dad kept all of his music and his piano, so I loved to go in there. The house gave me great comfort and made me feel safe. I think the way I take care of my home today comes from my mum. She looked after our house very well and I learned by watching her.

I lived at the house until I finished high school in 1965 and went away to college in Massachusetts. By then, my dad had already died, which had upset me greatly. Dad had been very important to me. I returned after college and stayed at the house until the early 70s, when my mum sold it so she could move. My sister and I were so upset. It was all we had left of our childhood and our dad.

From time to time, I drive past the house, but I've never stopped to surprise the owners with, "**Hi, sorry to bother you. I used to live here.**" It's still a beautiful home. I would love to buy it one day. I'm interested to know what it's worth.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The text is about a

- A town
- B region
- C school event
- D private house

2. Put the following events in chronological order. The first one has been done for you.

	Event order
A Her father bought the house in 1948	1
B Natalie's Dad died	
C Her Mum moved out of the house	
D Natalie was born	

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

3. In the last paragraph, why are inverted commas ("...") used in this sentence?

"Hi, sorry to bother you. I used to live here."

- A To give a title
- B To give an example
- C To show what she wanted to say
- D To show informal language

4. Which of the words or phrases below best matches the meaning of the word, **rarely**, as used in paragraph 2?

- A Consistently
- B Frequently
- C Not often
- D Never

5. The main purpose of this text is to

- A report a news item
- B explain unusual events
- C give an opinion
- D describe some memories

6. Why was the library Natalie's favourite room?

- A) That's where her dad kept all of his music and his piano
- B) She loved seeing her house from a distance
- C) It gave her great comfort and made her feel safe
- D) She loved going in there

Task 2

Read the text and answer questions 7 - 12.

NEWS

Woman wins £100,000 in prizes after entering 100 competitions a day for two decades.

February 6, 2018 | 12:49am | Updated February 6, 2018 | 10:17am

Kim Searle's collection began with a microwave in 1989 and includes a Disneyland Florida holiday and return flights to Australia. She has won £100,000 worth of prizes after entering hundreds of competitions a day for 24 years. Kim Searle, who is 50 years old, started entering competitions when she won a microwave in 1989 and then got involved with '**comping**'. Not a day goes by without Kim looking through magazines and websites for the latest competitions, even when she is away on holiday. Her prizes range from the small and **weird** through to big prizes. For example, she has won small prizes such as a toaster and coffee maker and bigger prizes, for example a £10,000 holiday to Disneyland Florida, a trip to Hawaii and £2,000 return flights to Australia.

Competition-mad Kim, from Powys, Wales, once won a £20 can of motor oil for a petrol engine even though she and husband David, 50, drive a diesel van. She also won a month's supply of nappies even though she doesn't have any children. It does seem that her commitment to entering competitions is working well, with Kim saying she now collects around £200 worth of goods every month.

She admits she has won items over the years that she has never even used, like a travel cot, a children's bunk bed, knitting books and a first aid kit. Kim was in her mid-twenties and recovering from illness when she first started trying her luck, as she was unable to work. "I was very bored and everybody bought me magazines, which were full of competitions," Kim says. "I needed something to occupy myself, so I decided to enter a few and I continued from there." Then, when she won first prize of a microwave after entering a competition in her local paper, she became obsessed: "The excitement after my first win was absolutely fantastic and the pleasure of winning felt great."

After her illness, Kim began working part-time for her husband's online book business. However, she still manages to find good competitions to enter during her lunch breaks and in the evenings. Although most involve simply filling in her contact details, she prefers the competitions that involve a challenge.

Although her house is full of boxes and her cupboards have items unopened, she still gets the same pleasure, after all this time, when a new prize is delivered by the postman. There is, however, one big win that she hasn't managed yet and which pushes her on to enter again and again: a brand-new car. She adds: "I will never stop entering competitions. It's in my blood and it's part of my daily life."

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

7. The text is about a woman who enters competitions to win

- A anything at all
- B children's items
- C things she needs
- D supermarket food

8. Kim started working in her husband's business after she won the microwave.

Is this true or false? Tick (✓) the correct box.

True

False

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

9. In paragraph 1, why is the bold word “**comping**” in quotation marks?

- A To explain how to win
- B To persuade others to try it
- C To emphasise a different word used
- D To disagree with what she was doing

10. Which of the words or phrases below best matches the meaning of the word, **weird**, as used in the text?

- A standard
- B ordinary
- C strange
- D exciting

11. The purpose of this text is to

- A report an interesting story
- B disapprove of Kim's collection
- C explain how to enter a competition
- D discourage readers from doing competitions

12. What does Kim Searle want to win? Write your answer below.

SAMPLE

Task 3

Read the information in the following texts and answer questions 13 – 18.

A

The House of Lords is the second hall in the UK Parliament building. It is independent from, but works with, the House of Commons. The House of Lords shares the task of making and shaping laws and checking and challenging the work of the government.

The Lords has three main roles:

- Making laws
- Looking at public policy
- Checking laws suggested in the House of Commons

Making laws

Members spend almost half of the time in the House considering bills (draft laws). All bills are looked at by both Houses of Parliament before they can become law.

Looking at public policy

Members use their experience to investigate public policy. Much of this work is done in small groups which are chosen to think about special policy areas. These meetings are open to the public.

Revising laws suggested in the House of Commons

Members examine the work of the government during question time and debates and government ministers must respond.

B

Send Options... HTML

To... Mr Taylor

Burglary at 42 Sweeten Grove, Manchester

Search Current Mailbox (Ctrl+E) Current Mailbox

Mr Taylor

I am writing to explain what has happened at our home on Sweeten Grove in Manchester. I spoke to someone on the Insurance Helpline last night and **they** said that I needed to report the burglary to the police to get a crime reference number.

I now have the crime reference number: it is SWM509872. We were broken into during the day when we were visiting friends 2 miles away. The burglars took a number of items and we have broken patio doors. A builder repaired the doors immediately to keep the house secure.

According to the person on the helpline, I need to fill in the form and include receipts as proof of purchase for the items I am claiming for. I can find receipts for some of the stolen items but not for some of the jewellery, as it belonged to my mother and she is no longer alive so I cannot find out the value of the pieces.

Please could you advise me about what I can do about this.

With best wishes

Jane Green

C



Green and Brown are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom mid terrace property. The property has an entrance hall, lounge / diner and kitchen to the ground floor. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a shower room. Other benefits include gas central heating and part double glazing. **Viewings highly recommended.**

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

13. Text **A** explains how

- A** people become lords
- B** government laws are made
- C** committees are chosen
- D** government accounts are kept

14. In Text **B**, what has happened to the people at 42 Sweeten Grove?

- A** Their mother lost her jewellery
- B** They rang the police on the helpline
- C** Somebody burgled their house
- D** They had an accident and the patio doors broke

15. What does “**they**” refer to in Text **B**?

Someone from the

- A** police
- B** help line
- C** repair firm
- D** builders

16. ‘Viewings highly recommended’ as used in the Text **C** means that the customer

- A** will buy the house
- B** should buy the house
- C** will not like the house
- D** should look at the house

17. The purpose of Text **C** is to

- A** advertise a house for rent
- B** advertise the sale of a house
- C** explain how to claim insurance
- D** promote new housing in the area

18. From Text A, bills become law when

- A the public has agreed them
- B both houses have agreed them
- C the House of Lords has agreed them
- D the House of Commons has agreed them

End of assessment

SAMPLE