Task 1

Read the text and answer questions 1 – 6.



1 Manon Ossevoort, a Dutch actress and traveller went to the South Pole, the most southern point on the surface of the Earth in a red farm vehicle called a tractor in December 2014. The journey across the ice of Antarctica was over 1,500 miles. The 38-year-old Dutch actress had already driven a tractor 24,000 miles from her home in the Netherlands across Europe to Africa.

2 Ms. Ossevoort first had the desire to drive a tractor from her home to Antarctica in 2005. It took her four years to reach South Africa and then she missed the boat that was supposed to take her to Antarctica. The ship that broke ice on which **she** was supposed to travel had been given a new assignment and had left before she reached South Africa. She never let her dream go, despite having to return to the Netherlands, where she wrote a book. She waited years for another opportunity, searching for sponsors who would help her to create a tractor capable of passing through such **harsh territory.**

3 Massey Ferguson, the tractor firm, became a sponsor and a team of experts gathered to prepare for the expedition. The company provided her with a special tractor which was equipped to handle the snow and the harsh temperatures. The tractor carried fuel and spare tyres. Osservoort called the tractor Antarctica2 in honour of Sir Edmund Hillary, who was the first to reach the South Pole by tractor on what was called the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

4 The Antarctica2 expedition team took 16 days to travel the 1,500 miles from the camp to the South Pole in December 2014, at very slow speeds because of the extreme conditions. The lead guide for the expedition was American-born Matty McNair. She was part of a team that also included her daughter, Sarah McNair-Landry.

5 The team rested for a day at the South Pole then returned to the Antarctic coast along the same route, completing over a 3,000-mile round journey and arriving back in time for Christmas with their families. On the return journey, when they reached the mountains at a height of 3314 metres, the team members said they were “out of breath” in the thin air. Thankfully, the weather on the return journey was clear with blue skies but the temperature was minus 30 degrees which with the cold wind meant around minus 37. As the Expedition Lead Guide said in her daily report: “It’s chilly out there.” Ossevoort celebrated her journey with team members and said: “It’s such a huge dream come true. To have dreams is beautiful but to see them happen is extraordinary. I’m inspired.”

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The text is about

   A an icy journey

   B a mountain climb

   C a sightseeing visit

   D a sporting challenge

2. Put the following events into the correct order. The first one is done for you.

Event	Number
A. Antarctica2 arrived at the South Pole.	
B. Ossevoort wrote a book.	
C. Hillary's expedition arrived at the South Pole.	1
D. Ossevoort drove a tractor to South Africa.	

3. In paragraph 2, 'The ship that broke ice on which **she** was supposed to travel', who is 'she'? Write your answer on the line.

   _____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

4. Which of the words or phrases below best matches the meaning of the words **harsh territory** in the paragraph 2 of the text?

   A high land

   B snowy habitat

   C inhabited country

   D unwelcoming surroundings

SAMPLE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. The main purpose of this article is to be

   A instructive

   B persuasive

   C informative

   D encouraging

6. Manon Ossevoort named the tractor Antarctica2 to remember

   A her first journey in 2005

   B Sir Edmund Hillary

   C Massey Ferguson

   D Matty McNair

SAMPLE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 2

Read the texts and answer questions 7 - 14.

A

Recovered items **Stansted Airport**

Date and place recovered: Thursday 26 September 2019; Departure lounge	
Main category: Personal item	**Sub group:** Glasses
Item found: Reading glasses	**Type:** Metal framed
Description: Brown	
Operator: Stansted	**Email:** Stn.lostproperty@bagport.co.uk
Country: UK	**City:** London
Telephone Number:	0208735912
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 00.00-24.00	**Opening hours Sat:** 00.00-24.00
	Opening hours Sun: 00.00-24.00
Information: An administration fee of £2 to £20 is charged when the found item is collected.	

B

Retail & Service Assistant
(Part-time with possibilities to acquire additional hours)

Recruiter: Luggage Point Birmingham Airport
Location: Birmingham Airport Landside
Salary: £8.50 basic + bonus
Hours: Airport retail hours require shift work including early morning or late hours. Own transport is essential.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for 3 retail and service assistants with a strong focus on customer service, along with a background in retail. Airport experience would be an advantage although not essential. You will be required to do training and be aware of the Airport Passenger Charter.
We require people who:

- put the customer first and are friendly even at busy times
- identify customer needs
- handle customer enquiries and complaints effectively
- seek opportunities to enhance customer experience.

C

Transport for London's lost property office in Baker Street marked its 80th anniversary in 2014. There are some weird and wonderful things that passengers leave behind. False teeth and thousands of mobile phones have ended up there. When items come into the office, their details are entered into a computer system rather **appropriately** called Sherlock, after the Lost Property Office's fictional Baker Street neighbour, Sherlock Holmes.

Each piece of lost property is tagged with a description and date on a colour-coded label. It is a red label if found in a taxi, a white one if left on a bus or a yellow one if it was on a train or at a station. Nearly a quarter of items that pass through the office are reunited with their owners.
These are the top three items left on London's Transport network in 2019:
Mobile phones - 20,309
Wallets - 11,580
Umbrellas - 10,908
Keys - 10,790.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. In Text **A**, you will not pay anything when you collect your lost property.

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

   True ☐ **False** ☐

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

8. In Text **B**, bullet points are used because

   A they are headings

   B they make a clear list

   C they show someone is speaking

   D they are repeating information

9. A suitable title for Text **C** is

   A Property for Sale

   B Transport Bargains

   C Lost Property Finds

   D Baggage in Abundance

10. Which of the words or phrases below best matches the meaning of the word **appropriately** as used in Text **C**?

   A fairly

   B suitably

   C irrelevantly

   D unacceptably

SAMPLE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

11.	In which text does the writer tell you what time you can fetch your item?	**A**	**B**	**C**
12.	Which text describes an item in detail?	**A**	**B**	**C**
13.	Which text comments on unusual items?	**A**	**B**	**C**
14.	Which text highlights care of the customer?	**A**	**B**	**C**

SAMPLE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 3

Read the text and answer questions 15 – 21.



The word, marathon, even if you are not a runner, carries a clear meaning. **It** suggests a difficult and exhausting challenge that can only be overcome with determination. It is also a city in Greece where a famous battle occurred 2,500 years ago between Persia and the Greek city of Athens.

The Persian army crossed the Aegean Sea and landed at Marathon, a city 25 miles from the city of Athens. The Persians planned to capture Marathon and then move on to take over Athens. However, the Greek army defeated them with Persia losing 6,400 warriors to the Greeks' loss of 192. The legend said that a Greek man called Pheidippides had been fighting at Marathon and when they won, he was chosen to run the 25 miles from Marathon to Athens to give the news of the victory. He must have been exhausted! According to legend, Pheidippides ran the entire distance back to Athens without stopping. Reaching it, he burst into the council, shouting "We have won." At which point he unsurprisingly collapsed.

He is now the symbol of commitment to all runners who display **stamina** and determination. According to the military historian, Edward Creasy, "The day of Marathon is the critical period in the history of the two nations. It broke forever the spell of Persian invincibility, which had previously brought men's minds to a standstill." In other words, it changed history.

The Athenian army reached the city later that day after marching the entire distance from the battlefield. The Persian ships arrived soon after, but saw that the city was ready for them and turned away.

Now, while the Battle of Marathon is a historical fact, there is a lot of debate about whether the particular event involving Pheidippides actually happened. Plutarch, who wrote in the 1st century AD, says it did. He quotes the account of Heraclides of Pontus but that work has been lost. In any case, the name of the runner was different. A century later, another writer tells the story but says the runner's name was Philippides. Eventually, the English poet Robert Browning, wrote his opinion of the tale in 1879, and combined all of these. This is part of one verse: "So, when Persia was dust, all cried 'To Akropolis! Run, Pheidippides, one race more!' "

It became very popular and is now the version of the story most people recognise. That account was on the minds of many when the race was formed as part of the introduction of the modern Olympics in 1896. These days a marathon is a race of 42.195 km, and marathons take place in cities all over the world. Millions of people train for and run marathons every year, proving that they have the determination to overcome difficulties and achieve their goals.

SAMPLE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Circle the correct letter.

15. The best title for this text is

A The First Marathon Winner

B Some Famous Historians

C The Origin of the Olympics

D An Important Message

16. In the phrase in Paragraph 1, '**it** suggests a difficult and exhausting challenge', the word **it** refers to a

A word

B place

C person

D runner

17. Put the following events in the correct order. One has been done for you.

Event	Order
The Persian army landed in Athens.	
A Greek soldier ran from Marathon to Athens.	
Browning wrote an account of the battle.	4
The Persian army travelled to Marathon.	

SAMPLE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Circle the correct letter.

18. In paragraph 4 **'stamina'** means

A poor health

B opposition

C strength

D honesty

19. Why do historians believe that the Battle of Marathon was important?

_____

20. The story of the messenger from Marathon is

A questioned by some

B a recent invention

C a historical fact

D believed today

21. The main purpose of this text is to

A emphasize the importance of physical training

B illustrate how a word got its meaning

C encourage people to persevere through difficulties

D instruct readers about a historical event

End of assessment

SAMPLE

LIVEWORKSHEETS