

**Task 1.** You are going to read film and theatrical reviews. Match the summary sentences (A-I) with the reviews (1-7) below. There is one extra summary sentence which you do not need to use. Write your answers in the boxes.

### Film and theatre

(1) The story of the vampire Baron Meinster, who is kept chained by his mother to prevent him terrorising local villagers. All hell breaks loose when he is unwittingly freed.

(2) Laurence is an overworked estate agent under pressure from both his job and his wife, Beverly. They are holding a small drinks party at their plush home, for neighbour Sue and newcomers Tony and Angela. At first, goodwill, clichés and small talk abound, but as the drinks flow freely, we begin to see the conflicts and hatred that lie just beneath the surface.

(3) Alan Strang loves horses — so why has he been convicted of mutilating six horses at the local stables? 'He has the strangest stare I ever met ... It's exactly like being accused. Violently accused. But what of? ...

Treating him is going to be unsettling.' Dr Dysart unravels the mysteries that shroud Alan's behaviour, he is forced to examine his own beliefs and the intense bond that connects him to his disturbed young patient.

(4) When a gang robbery doesn't meet expectations, violence breaks out in the struggle for the spoils. A traitor is exposed in their ranks and it becomes a race against time and the law for the villains to find out who he is and recover their money.

(5) Meet Generation X heroes, Holden and Banky. When Holden meets Alyssa at a comic book convention, it's love at first sight. A setback comes when he discovers that she is gay and, as his love grows, desperation takes over.

(6) Will poor Cinderella ever meet the man of her dreams? Will her evil step mother, and her two ugly daughters stop Cinders going to the ball? ... This is a new upbeat, updated Cinderella, combining the magic and slapstick of traditional panto with furious comedy and classic songs.

(7) As the skies ignite on the 4th July with never-before-seen phenomena, thirty spaceships menacingly hover over the world's largest capital cities, and the countdown to destruction begins.

(8) A stylish, disturbing story about the emotional devastation caused to a young woman, newcomer Samantha Morton, by her mother's sudden death. Theatr Clwyd — A Programme guide

**A** New romantic comedy from young director Kevin Smith.

**B** A thrilling summer movie with terrifying aliens, awe-inspiring action and spectacular suspense and special effects.

**C** Gothic horror at its best, with a fast-moving script and stunning camerawork.

**D** Music, magic and mayhem in a high octane pantomime for all the family to enjoy.

**E** 'The best British crime movie since The Long Good Friday ...'

**F** A psychological thriller – visually stunning and compelling.

**G** The story of a city that refused to give in through the experience of a tough-skinned reporter.

**H** Mesmerising drama that delves into the turbulent depths of female experience.

**I** A glittering black comedy about the stresses of suburban life. A biting social satire on the aspirational values which have come to replace compassion and truth in our lives.

**Task 2.** You are going to read a newspaper article about explorers. Some parts of the text are missing. Choose the most appropriate part from the list (A-J) for each gap (1-9) in the text. There is one extra part that you do not need to use.

### Explorers follow in Pole footsteps

It was the most heroic bid for survival ever chronicled. Three men, dressed in gabardine wool suits, with a box of matches, an axe, a rope, a portable stove and no tent, (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

All they knew for sure was that, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, their own lives and the lives of 28 of their fellow explorers would be lost. Now, 84 years on, three British men are once more preparing to make that terrible journey. Next week Jonathan Chastney, Jock Wishart and Duncan Nicoll will set out together for the island of South Georgia to retrace the steps of their hero, Sir Ernest Shackleton. They will risk death from exposure and icy winds of up to 100mph, but plan to wear authentic Burberry clothing

(3) ..... They will have no back-up if anything goes wrong. Chastney, a 35-year-old property developer from Tamworth and member of the 1995 team who made the first ascent of Mount Katherine-Jane on Smith Island, Antarctica, is making the trip in tribute to Shackleton. The crucial overland section is expected (4) \_\_\_\_\_. 'Shackleton did it in 36 hours,' said Chastney, 'but then he knew that might well be all the time they had'. 'We will be wearing the original Burberry gear, although the undergarments, (5) \_\_\_\_\_, are proving a little more difficult. We will be "mix and match".'

Shackleton's original desperate journey came at the end of an 18-month attempt to cross Antarctica. On 23 October, 1915, he wrote: 'After long months of ceaseless anxiety and strain, after times when hope beat high and times when the outlook was black indeed, (6) \_\_\_\_\_, which is crushed beyond all hope of ever being righted...it is hard to write what I feel'. His ship, Endurance, had been smashed by icebergs. For six months Shackleton and his 17-man crew camped on ice-floes, dragging their lifeboats across the snow (7) \_\_\_\_\_. As ice thawed, they eventually made it to the remote Elephant Island.

There Shackleton chose five of the fittest men to set off in a 20ft open boat across 800 miles of ocean to reach South Georgia. Although they survived the voyage, (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Shackleton and two of his men set off again, leaving the three others to eke out an existence inside a cave. Against the odds, they reached the whaling station at Stromness (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Shackleton

returned to Britain a hero, but until recently his name has been overshadowed by that of Captain Robert Falcon Scott.

- A and organised the safe rescue of all the marooned men**
- B to take the three men up to four days**
- C and shooting their dogs for food**
- D set out on a hazardous journey across uncharted glaciers**
- E they landed on the wrong side of the island** **F as they recreate history for a television documentary**
- G and was determined to take it out of the country**
- H which were probably individually made by the wives of the crew**
- I we have been compelled to abandon the ship**
- J if they failed to make it to safety**

**Task 3. Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct answer.**

#### **GENDER GAP IN EDUCATION**

For many years now, British girls have performed much better in exams than boys. Most theories about the causes of this gap (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the sexes have blamed the education (2) \_\_\_\_\_ . However, new research suggests that boys' poor performance has nothing to do (3) \_\_\_\_\_

internal practices at schools. Instead external factors, such as different learning styles and how children are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ up, have to be considered. For this (5) \_\_\_\_\_ , many educationalists are now studying how boys and girls learn to read. They believe that, since reading is (6). \_\_\_\_ taught either by mothers or by female primary school teachers, many boys (7) \_\_\_\_\_ reading as a woman's activity and this puts them (8) \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Another factor could be that boys are generally more (9) \_\_\_\_\_ than girls. When they can't be the best, they would rather (10) \_\_\_\_\_ up on education than to be considered average. Girls seem much happier to be second best.

**Task 4. Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct answer.**

Whenever we read about the natural world nowadays, it is common (1) \_\_\_\_\_ dire predictions about its imminent destruction. Some scientists go so far as to assert that from now on, the world can no longer be called 'natural', in so far as future processes of weather, climate and all

the interactions of plant and animal life (2) \_\_\_\_\_ longer \_ on in their time-honoured way, unaffected by humans. There will never be such a thing as 'natural weather' again, say such writers, only weather affected by global warming. It is hard to know whether to believe such prophets of doom, possibly because what they (3). \_\_\_\_\_ seems too terrible to be true. There are other equally influential scientists who argue that climate, for example, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ many times over the centuries, and that what we (5) \_\_\_\_\_ now may simply be part of an endless cycle of change, rather than a disaster on a global scale.