

TEST 8

0 A far B then C back D past

0	A	B	C	D
	☐	☐	☒	☐

The joy of picnics

Years ago, (0) in the days when I was just a kid, my family used to have Sunday picnics together in a (1) part of the countryside. We would find a suitably quiet and pleasant (2) , then spend several hours chatting, eating and playing games in the (3) air. Since then, though, my parents' life has become so much busier and they never seem to have the time for (4) family meals any more.

In my (5) this is a great pity, so I've recently started to organise picnics of my (6) I get in touch with some of my closest friends and first we (7) on a suitable place to go. Then we talk about who'll bring which food. This (8) that there will be a variety of tasty things to eat, particularly (9) everyone makes the meals they do best. It's important, though, to keep the food simple, as everything has to (10) into a backpack and then be carried across fields and up river valleys.

When we finally (11) our destination, it's time to sit down, relax and enjoy each other's company. And I'm (12) certain that food tastes far better on a picnic than anywhere else!

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|----|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | A close | B nearby | C near | D next |
| 2 | A spot | B point | C tip | D dot |
| 3 | A free | B empty | C wide | D open |
| 4 | A outer | B outdoor | C outward | D outgoing |
| 5 | A view | B regard | C thought | D belief |
| 6 | A self | B part | C behalf | D own |
| 7 | A decide | B determine | C fix | D arrange |
| 8 | A assures | B insures | C ensures | D secures |
| 9 | A unless | B so | C if | D though |
| 10 | A fit | B match | C suit | D join |
| 11 | A arrive | B get | C achieve | D reach |
| 12 | A remarkably | B absolutely | C extremely | D highly |

TEST 9

0 A noticed

B solved

C found

D saw

0	A	B	C	D
	☐	☐	☒	☐

Email overload

A recent survey (0) that office workers are suffering from an increasingly common 21st-century problem: too many emails. The study, which involved observing the (1) of over 50 companies, appears to show that the huge number of messages they are now receiving is (2) many of them from doing their jobs properly. In some cases, (3) to the authors of the report, the negative (4) on concentration can be as bad as losing a whole night's sleep.

The main problem seems to be that whenever employees receive emails, they feel (5) to reply to them immediately. Often the message has nothing at all to (6) with the work they are currently involved in, requiring them to focus on a completely different issue – until the next email arrives. These constant changes are tiring for the brain and this inevitably (7) to poor overall performance.

Many employees continue to do this outside working (8) , checking their emails at home again and again just in (9) there are any new messages. Some even do so while they are on holiday.

The solution, say the scientists who (10) the survey, is relatively simple. Companies should advise people to check their emails far less often, possibly as (11) as three or four times a day, reminding them that not every message needs an instant reply. They could also encourage their employees to relax more, and not (12) their work quite so seriously.

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|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 A crew | B staff | C team | D band |
| 2 A delaying | B opposing | C preventing | D interfering |
| 3 A agreeing | B relating | C depending | D according |
| 4 A effect | B result | C reaction | D product |
| 5 A needed | B ordered | C commanded | D obliged |
| 6 A see | B do | C make | D go |
| 7 A results | B leads | C causes | D creates |
| 8 A days | B terms | C hours | D turns |
| 9 A case | B event | C time | D fact |
| 10 A made up | B took part | C carried out | D filled in |
| 11 A few | B many | C little | D much |
| 12 A feel | B take | C think | D regard |

TEST 10

0 A stands

B goes

C stays

D lies

0	A	B	C	D
	☐	☐	☐	☒

St Lucia

The island of St Lucia, which (0) between St Vincent and Martinique, is said to be one of the most attractive in the Caribbean. Measuring 44 kilometres long and 22 kilometres in width, it has a central mountain (1) which runs the length of the island. There are white sandy beaches with wonderful (2) of the two tall volcanoes called the Pitons, (3) of which are covered – like most of the island – in dense forest.

The climate is hot and tropical (4) the year, with average daily temperatures of about 27°C. Showers can occur in any month, although they are usually (5) fairly quickly.

Not surprisingly, St Lucia is extremely (6) with tourists. There is a wide range of (7) , from camping to luxury hotels, and it is very well (8) by sea and air with the rest of the world. (9) this, the island remains largely unspoilt and there are many quiet places to visit.

Not far from the coastal areas there are beautiful waterfalls in spectacular green valleys, often with (10) anybody else about. The roads are narrow and winding, so it is not (11) to travel any distance by car. A much better way to (12) to know the countryside of this lovely island is on horseback.

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|----|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | A queue | B range | C row | D series |
| 2 | A views | B scenes | C looks | D sights |
| 3 | A either | B all | C both | D each |
| 4 | A around | B while | C throughout | D over |
| 5 | A past | B over | C through | D beyond |
| 6 | A liked | B favourite | C enjoyed | D popular |
| 7 | A housing | B shelter | C sleeping | D accommodation |
| 8 | A connected | B joined | C related | D united |
| 9 | A Since | B Although | C Despite | D However |
| 10 | A nearly | B hardly | C almost | D just |
| 11 | A suitable | B favourable | C acceptable | D advisable |
| 12 | A want | B have | C get | D need |

TEST 11

0 A believe B imagine C realise D suppose

0	A	B	C	D
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PAPER

'Just (0) a day without paper,' reads one advertisement for a Finnish paper company. It adds, 'You almost (1) see our products every day.' And they're right. But in most industrial countries, people are so (2) to paper – whether it's for holding their groceries, for drying their hands or for (3) them with the daily news – that its (4) in their daily lives passes largely unnoticed.

At one (5) paper was in short supply and was used mainly for important documents, but more recently, growing economies and new technologies have (6) a dramatic increase in the (7) of paper used. Today, there are more than 450 different grades of paper, all designed for a different (8)

Decades ago, some people predicted a 'paperless office'. (9), the widespread use of new technologies has gone hand-in-hand with an increased use of paper. Research into the relationship between paper use and the use of computers has shown that the general (10) is likely to be one of growth and interdependence.

However, the costs (11) in paper production, in terms of the world's land, water and air resources, are high. This (12) some important questions. How much paper do we really need and how much is wasted?

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|----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | A positively | B obviously | C certainly | D absolutely |
| 2 | A conscious | B acquainted | C familiar | D accustomed |
| 3 | A providing | B delivering | C contributing | D giving |
| 4 | A task | B operation | C service | D role |
| 5 | A time | B instance | C date | D occasion |
| 6 | A called on | B come around | C brought about | D drawn up |
| 7 | A total | B portion | C number | D amount |
| 8 | A point | B goal | C purpose | D result |
| 9 | A Instead | B Besides | C Otherwise | D Alternatively |
| 10 | A method | B order | C trend | D system |
| 11 | A involved | B contained | C held | D connected |
| 12 | A puts | B raises | C gets | D places |