

✓ Exam tasks

Reading Part 3

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Student Adam Brown talks about growing up in a tiny house

I was nine when my parents first had the idea of moving from a normal-sized flat in the city to a small place in the countryside, and I was eleven by the time we actually did it. And when I say small, I mean really, really small. Our new home was about the size of a typical garage. Compared to the car-park-sized flat where we used to live, it was tiny.

We built our tiny house ourselves on a piece of land about two hours' drive from the city. We used to go there every weekend and during holidays to work on it, but, even so, it took nearly two years to finish. My mum designed the house to include all the basic things that a normal house has but fitted into a much smaller space. My 'bedroom' was built in a space under the roof that I could reach by ladder.

My parents were very happy with our new life. They enjoyed being able to grow our own fruit and vegetables and keep chickens to provide us with eggs. They were particularly pleased about not having to pay for power and fuel because we could produce our own electricity from the sun. We also collected wood from the land around us to burn for heat.

I remember that it took me a few months to get used to living in such a small space. At first, I missed having all my favourite toys and books around me. Before we moved from the city, we had had to give away most of our things because there wasn't enough room for them anymore, but now I don't mind having fewer things. And one thing I love about our tiny home is being able to spend so much more time outside – something I didn't do in the city very often. And I do a lot more things with my parents, which is great.

I'm away at university now, and share a flat with other students, where my bedroom is about the same size as my whole family home! When I go back to see my parents, I find it hard to manage now in such a small space. I don't think I'll choose 'tiny living' for myself in the future, but I'm glad that I've had the experience of it.

- 1 Why does Adam compare his old and new homes in the first paragraph?
 - A to say that living in different homes is normal for him
 - B to discuss the advantages of living in a small home
 - C to make it clear how small his new home is
 - D to suggest that flats are better than houses
- 2 What is Adam doing in the second paragraph?
 - A complaining about how the house was designed
 - B giving information about the building and design of the house
 - C warning about the difficulties of building a small house
 - D explaining why his mum wanted to build a small house
- 3 What did Adam's parents like most about their new home?
 - A They could enjoy the land around them.
 - B They could easily get the wood they needed.
 - C They could keep animals.
 - D They could get essential things for free.
- 4 In the fourth paragraph, how does Adam feel about living in a tiny home?
 - A He has grown to like his new home over time.
 - B He dislikes not having enough room for his things.
 - C He wishes he had more time to be alone at his home.
 - D He is getting used to spending so much time outdoors.
- 5 What might Adam write now in his diary about living in a tiny home?
 - A I wish I hadn't had to spend so many years living in a tiny home.
 - B I'm not that keen on tiny living now I'm older, but I'm happy that I've done it.
 - C Why did Mum and Dad ever want to build a tiny home and move from the city?
 - D As soon as I get the chance, I'm going to build my own tiny home to live in.