Optimise B2

Student name _____

Group/Class _____

Date _____ Score _____

LISTENING

1 You will hear people talking in five different situations. For questions 1–5, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

UT Track 7

1 You hear two people talking about a present.

What do the two people decide about the pottery?

A It would be a more personal gift for Marcel than a picture.

B It would be something that Marcel could use in a practical way.

C It should have a similar style to the other things in Marcel's flat.

2 You hear a radio programme about an exhibition.

How does the presenter feel about the Bimbies?

A They tell us a lot about the author's attitude to children.

B It is difficult to understand why people like the characters.

C People will be interested in the development of the characters.

3 You hear part of an interview with an opera singer.

What does Natasha say about singing when she was younger?

A She put a lot of effort into her public performances.

B She was too nervous to take part in school concerts.

C She liked singing but she didn't like doing it in public.

4 You hear two friends talking about an art exhibition.

What aspect of the exhibition surprised them?

A that the artist had decided to use animals instead of people

B that the exhibits had been produced by children

C that it didn't have the same effect as other exhibitions

5 You hear a conversation in a photography shop.

What is the advantage of printing the photo in black and white?

A The original photo is too bright and colourful.

B It would make some features of the photo more noticeable.

C It might be a problem to print that size in colour.

Score: /5

GRAMMAR

Photocopiable © Macmillan Education Limited 2021

macmillan education

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Complete the text with the words in the box. There are two extra words which you don't need.

anyone anywhere it one someone somewhere there

If you asked **(1)** _____ to name a famous artist, you would probably be surprised to hear names like Congo the chimpanzee or Koko the gorilla. That is because most people think that art is only created by humans. Most of us think it is one important way in which we are different from animals. However, **(2)** _____ is now believed that there may be other species that share our creative instinct. Koko and Congo are the most famous and are known for their simplistic paintings and drawings, although critics would argue that **(3)** _____ could have produced them. However, **(4)** _____ is a type of bird called a bowerbird, which does seem to have authentic artistic talent. The male bowerbird creates unusual three-dimensional sculptures, which it uses to attract the female birds. I saw a picture of **(5)** _____ on the internet.

Score: /5

3 Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first. Do not change the word given. Use two to five words, including the word given.

1 We had left early that morning. However, we didn't get to the house until late.
FACT
We didn't get to the house until late, _____ we had left early that morning.

2 Despite not being the most attractive phone, it is excellent value for money.
ALTHOUGH
_____ the most attractive phone, it is excellent value for money.

3 Despite their assignment not being finished, Sam and Noah really wanted to go to the beach.
EVEN
Sam and Noah really wanted to go to the beach _____ finished their assignment.

4 Although they were late for work themselves, they gave us a lift to the station.
SPITE
They gave us a lift to the station _____ late for work themselves.

5 I don't mind you borrowing my bike from time to time if you ask me first.
HOWEVER
I don't mind you borrowing my bike from time to time. _____ ask me first.

Score: /5

4 Complete the dialogues with the correct form of the verbs in the box and a reflexive pronoun.

cut do drive help paint

1 **A:** Have you got any biscuits?
B: They're on the table. _____.

2 **A:** What happened to Julio? His finger's bleeding.
B: He _____ on a broken glass.

3 **A:** The children's bedroom looks very tidy. Did you tidy it?
B: No, they _____.

4 **A:** Have you heard about that new car that's being developed?
B: Do you mean the one that can _____?

Photocopiable © Macmillan Education Limited 2021

macmillan education
LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 **A:** I love that picture of the sunflowers.

B: Thank you. I _____.

Score: /5

5 Choose the correct words and phrases (A, B or C) to complete the sentences.

1 I think you'll need to take something out of your suitcase. It's _____ heavy to carry.

A not too **B** too much **C** far too

2 Kelly doesn't know _____ French to live in a French-speaking country.

A too much **B** such **C** enough

3 We wanted to get our mum a new coat for her birthday but it was _____ expensive for us.

A so **B** too **C** enough

4 I don't like going into the city centre anymore. There are _____ many tourists that you can't move.

A so **B** too **C** such

5 Theft is _____ a big problem on the underground that there are now police on the trains.

A so **B** such **C** too

Score: /5

READING

Banksy

In 2010, *Time* magazine published a list of the 100 most important people in the world. Among those you might expect to see, like Steve Jobs and Barack Obama, there was also a very unlikely candidate. His name was Banksy and he was street artist from Bristol, a city in the west of England, **(1)** _____.

A Having gone to school in Bristol and being of a similar age, I've always been interested in Banksy's story. While I was going to school and preparing to go to university, he was out spraying graffiti on the city's walls and trains. Afraid of being caught by the police, he realised that he had to work out a faster way of painting his murals. The idea he had was to prepare stencils, which **(2)** _____ He would cut out the stencils and simply spray paint over the top of them, leaving the design on the wall.

B Banksy's new approach to graffiti meant that he could produce much more original street art than had been seen before. His pieces were usually simple but they could have a very powerful effect. Although his stencils frequently featured rats and monkeys, there was often a political or philosophical message in his work, which made it unique. Later on, his work started to include images of cultural icons, like Ronald MacDonald and Mickey Mouse, **(3)** _____.

C The story of Banksy is a mysterious one and for many years his identity was unknown. However, it appears that he moved to London in the late 1990s, which was when his career really took off. Fans were delighted by **(4)** _____ Apart from his street art, Banksy started to produce some unusual installations, such as his famous red telephone box. It looked like someone had broken it in half, pushed it over and left it in a London street. Some people thought it was a statement about the way the world had changed; traditional red telephone boxes being replaced by mobile phones and the internet.

Photocopiable © Macmillan Education Limited 2021

macmillan education

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Banksy started to attract the attention of art collectors and his paintings sold for thousands in auctions. Suddenly, Banksy was a household name and he was being talked about in the newspapers and on the TV. For some people, he was an artistic genius who was responsible for a whole new style of art. For others, he was just a graffiti artist, **(5)** _____ Nevertheless, everyone seemed to be aware of the value of his pieces and they were soon out hunting for Banksy's murals. It's been said that some people made a fortune from selling pieces of walls with his paintings on them.

E For me, the highlight of Banksy's career was when he returned to the west of England and put on a show in my home town of Weston-super-Mare. Named 'Dismaland', it was set in an old open-air swimming pool. The show featured a series of installations by Banksy and other well-known artists and it was designed to feel like a theme park. However, thanks to Banksy's sense of humour, nothing was quite what it seemed.

6 Read the article. Choose which sentence ending (A–F) fits each gap (1–5). There are two extra sentence endings you do not need.

1 ____
2 ____
3 ____
4 ____
5 ____

A are designs that are sketched onto card, a technique which is often used for painting signs.
B whose work was little more than vandalism.
C his unique style and he soon became well known in the alternative London art scene.
D where he had made a name for himself with his innovative street art.
E although he had not once believed that he would be caught.
F but they would be portrayed in unusual or ironic situations.
G despite having spent many years working as a bus driver in London.

Score: /5

VOCABULARY

7 Complete the sentences with one word from each of the boxes.

act	behind	blank	centre	played

canvas	follow	part	scenes	stage

1 My sister is a costume designer so we managed to get a look _____ the _____ of the latest James Bond film.
2 I have to say that Bobbie certainly _____ his _____ in making this event such a success.
3 I'm pleased that Angela decided to take _____ _____ because I didn't feel like talking to them.
4 Matt George was a great presenter and he'll be a tough _____ to _____ on *Stardom in Mind.*
5 It's been great fun creating my own blog. It was basically a _____ _____ and I could write about anything I wanted.

Score: /5

Photocopiable © Macmillan Education Limited 2021
macmillan education
LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 Choose the correct answers (A, B, C or D) to complete the text.

When I was a teenager, I knew I wanted to be an artist. I was more fascinated by the colours and shapes of **(1)** _____ art, rather than images of real things. I would spend hours painting strange pictures that no one could understand. When I finished school, I wanted to carry on painting but I had to get a job to support myself. I worked as a builder during the day and I would paint for much of the night. It was a difficult balancing **(2)** _____ but I didn't want to stop painting. Eventually, people started to get interested in my paintings so I tried to sell a few of them in **(3)** _____. Surprisingly, the buyers were offering more money than I expected and I was able to give up my job. For the first time in my life, I was able to rent a **(4)** _____ where I could concentrate on my art. It wasn't easy to become a full-time artist but, after many years, everything has **(5)** _____ out well. Now I can spend all my time doing what I love best.

1	**A** impression	**B** abstract	**C** ideal	**D** current
2	**A** act	**B** action	**C** active	**D** activity
3	**A** bargains	**B** sell-offs	**C** trades	**D** auctions
4	**A** set	**B** stage	**C** studio	**D** scene
5	**A** given	**B** turned	**C** come	**D** gone

Score: /5

USE OF ENGLISH

9 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Do not change the word given. Use two to five words, including the word given.

1 The library wasn't quiet enough for me to work in so I went home.

NOISE

There _____ for me to work in the library so I went home.

2 No matter where she is, Adriana always wants to be the centre of attention.

TAKE

No matter where she is, Adriana always wants to _____ stage.

3 He was quick to put out the fire so he didn't get any bad burns.

HIMSELF

He _____ badly because he put the fire out quickly.

4 I think it would help a lot if we made a rough plan of our picture before we started painting.

OUT

I think it would be extremely _____ a rough plan of our picture before we start painting.

5 The waiter is so rude that I'm not going to leave him a tip.

SUCH

I would leave the waiter a tip if he _____ man.

Score: /5

Photocopiable © Macmillan Education Limited 2021

macmillan education

LIVEWORKSHEETS